

Mr Whitelaw expected to announce inquiry into Brixton riots today

After a second night of violence in Brixton Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, is expected to announce today that a government inquiry is to be set up into the riots. He reported as running battles developed between police and black youths. By late last night there had been 254 casualties and 168 arrests.

Running battles in streets for second night

After three days of violent confrontation between hundreds of police and black youths the streets of Brixton, south London, late last night began to quieten, leaving the memory of the worst public disorder seen in mainland Britain for years.

The first reaction of the Government is expected to be the announcement today of a public inquiry into the reasons for the riots which led to over 200 casualties, more than 150 arrests, and scenes of desolation after looting and arson.

The worst damage occurred on Saturday night and yesterday there were hopes that the violence had subsided. But as evening approached trouble broke out again with sporadic running battles.

The violence broke out as the local community was still trying to repair the damage left by Saturday night's riot, in which 192 people were injured, 106 people arrested and well over £1m worth of property was destroyed by arsonists or stolen by looters.

Police had cordoned off the Brixton area throughout the day, and were keeping a watch from a helicopter hovering constantly overhead. They were ready to move often in up to 12 vans, at the slightest sign of trouble.

Trouble started again late yesterday afternoon. In one incident around 5 pm a police van was reported to have been overturned outside a public house in Atlantic Road, and later skirmishes started outside the town hall, where a crowd of at least a thousand people, including many sightseers, had gathered.

Scotland Yard said last night that 62 people had been arrested in yesterday's clashes. Twenty-four civilians and 38 policemen were injured.

In the Raiton Road area police coaches were attacked and police with riot shields met a hail of bricks and stones.

As police in one part of the road were busy talking to residents trying to calm the situation, bricks and bottles from the supply of ammunition the still carped the devastated area were hurled at coaches, smashing windows.

Police with riot shields and dustbin lids for protection pushed the crowd back, splitting them into sections and driving groups of running black and white youths away into the side streets before regrouping around the mass of police vans parked along the road.

After about two hours of intermittent clashes police with riot shields succeeded in clearing many of the youths down Elfric Road. They urged back towards Raiton Road where most of the youths seemed to be bent on congregating.

A man with a megaphone called on the crowds to assemble in Raiton Road, scene of the previous night's riots.

In one incident five policemen and one policewoman, were set up into the riots. He reported as running battles developed between police and black youths. By late last night there had been 254 casualties and 168 arrests.

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A night of violence
Profile of Brixton
The role of the police
US race violence
Leading article

By Martin Huckerby,
David Nicholson Lord,
Stewart Tandler,
Nicholas Timmins and
Fred Emery

Many people in the approaches to Brixton, down the Coldharbour Lane and Brixton Road itself, stood quietly but clearly expecting a renewal of Saturday's violence. Both blacks and whites could be seen walking around as if it were a normal Sunday evening.

Tensions were very high wherever violence did erupt. Local inhabitants of all ages, both black and white, would come out of their houses to deplore both the police action and the actions of the youths.

One woman, who like most people in the area, refused to be named, said that fighting had broken out just round the corner, between groups of youths, where previously a small band had been playing music in an attempt to bring local inhabitants and police together and reduce tensions.

A snatch arrest of a black youth took place on the corner of Coldharbour Lane and Atlantic Road. A bystander, who appeared to have some authority over many of the young people who were hanging about, said that the arrested man had been very excited, but had done nothing wrong.

A government inquiry into the Brixton riot is expected to be set up and possibly announced today when Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, makes a statement to the Commons. That emerged last night when Mr Whitelaw, after visiting Brixton, reported to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, at 10 Downing St.

Mrs Thatcher, who had returned early from Chequers, was reported to be concerned. Ministers acknowledged that the confrontation had not been between black and white communities, but a straight-out pouring by young blacks, some of them extremely young, against the police.

It was accepted that the Government would have to do something more than was done in the aftermath of the Bristol riot a year ago.

Of the 192 injuries in Saturday's rioting, 165 were police officers of whom 18 were still in hospital yesterday. Constable Denis Ozols, based at Kensington police station, had an emergency operation late on Saturday night after receiving a fractured skull. Yesterday he was still in a very serious condition at King's College Hospital.

More than a hundred people had been charged, mainly with public order offences. Seven south London courts will deal with the cases at 14 hearings.

Four of the courts are juvenile courts.

A breakdown of the addresses of the people charged showed that well over half came from the immediate area of Brixton and its surrounds. All the accused but nine came from south London.

The Opposition is likely to call for an inquiry into the riots. Mr John Fisher, MP for Lambeth North, was in the Brixton area on Saturday night, helping to the one injured man to hospital. He said: "What has happened shows a devastating distrust and discontent."

As Mr Whitelaw prepared his statement, for the Commons today, several local MPs and black leaders said the violence owed much to the frustrations of unemployment and police tactics. They also spoke of the danger signs which had been ignored, noting the warnings that had been given over the years to successive governments.

Mr John Fisher, Labour MP for Lambeth North, which includes part of Brixton, said the James was the worst he had seen in peacetime. What had happened showed "a devastating distrust and discontent."

Mr John Tilley, Labour MP for Lambeth Central, said that after the Bristol riot last year he had warned Mr Whitelaw that if no action was taken on unemployment there would be new outbreaks.

Mr David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, echoed the suggestion of desperation and frustration.

Several of the immigrant and black leaders rounded on politicians and the police for their tactics at the beginning of the trouble. Councillor Russell Frost, spokesman for a meeting of London's black and Asian councillors yesterday, said that claims by Sir David McNee, the police commissioner, that the violence had been the work of outsiders intent on agitation was "self-defeating and false."

Mr William Gibson, Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard, said the violence started on Saturday at about 5 pm, after a police sergeant had been struck on the head with a brick. The sergeant had been making an arrest after an attack with bricks on a police van.

He said reserves came under attack from stone throwing youths. The officers held the line until reserves had been sent in from throughout London, and then they assumed a counter-offensive to clear the main roads.

An injured policeman said in hospital yesterday that he saw a colleague emptied in Brixton after his riot shield was hit by a petrol bomb. Constable Robert Saunders, aged 21, based at Brixton, said at King's College Hospital that other officers threw the man to the ground and put out the flames with their tunics.

Tiles torn away in launch of shuttle

From Michael Leaman
Cape Canaveral, April 12

The second try at launching the space shuttle Columbia was a success today but it was marred by two hours' delay when photographs from the space showed that some heat-resistant tiles had been ripped from its tail section.

But Mr Leroy Day, director of systems management at the space centre at Houston, said the missing tiles were "not critical" and there was no danger to the craft or to the crew.

If the tiles had fallen from the rear of the underside of the shuttle, it would have been extremely worrying. The extreme heat at those points when Columbia reenters the atmosphere at the end of its mission might have set the shuttle on fire.

At the tail end, though, the worst that could happen would be slight damage. Mr Day maintained. Pictures of the gaps left by the tiles were relayed to Houston by television cameras on the craft.

The television photographs show that 13 or 15 tiles are missing from the tail. Photographs of the rest of the exterior of the spacecraft will be taken by high-resolution ground-based cameras to see if any more are damaged. These cameras belong to the Air Force and are normally used for military surveillance.

Other tests were being carried out studying films of the launch and making comparisons with other launches to see if any other tiles had been damaged or loosened in more critical spots.

Tomas Smith, an expert on the tiles, said that in some cases the tiles were just loose. They could come off and fall away without causing any damage. Mr Neil Hutchinson, mission director, said: "We have no reason to believe we have any more tile problems arising from this launch."

The 3200-slit tiles have been the other cause of the delays, at high cost, in the development of the reusable shuttle, which was originally planned to get into space three years ago. It has proved extremely hard to stick them to the surface of the craft firmly enough to prevent them being shaken loose by buffeting.

Future flights will carry a repair kit to allow astronauts to replace tiles from inside space. No such kit is on this maiden flight.

The discovery of the missing tiles came after the initial phase of the launch had gone superbly. After lift off, the booster rockets were shed as planned, and the shuttle, carrying its giant fuel tank and main engine, climbed into the sky, leaving behind a heavy, straight trail of thick white smoke.

Doctors said that at the time of the launching, Captain Robert Crippen, the pilot, whose first voyage into space this is, had a pulse rate of 150, nearly twice normal. The hearts of space officials here, who know the future of the space programme depends on a successful completion of this launch, said they have beaten more slowly.

Commander John Young, the senior of the two astronauts, reported that 11 minutes after lift-off, there was considerable vibration but no damage to sensitive instruments.

After having a call off the launch pad, the shuttle was launched on Friday. On previous space flights the traditional astronauts' breakfast was steak and eggs.

On Friday, Young and Crippen had bacon and eggs instead. Today they switched back to steak and the Columbia sailed away on time.

Military implications, page 12



The shuttle climbing above Cape Canaveral as it carries the 'pills' of flame. Associated photograph, page 12

President Reagan, who set the pace for the launch, said in a message to the astronauts: "We feel the sense of pride that comes from knowing we are the first, and we are the best, and we are so because we are free."

America has launched vehicles and men into space before but has never had a craft it could bring back. The shuttle's unique quality, the mission will have succeeded only when it reenters the Earth's atmosphere on Tuesday and lands in California.

The crew had their own theory about what went wrong on Friday. On previous space flights the traditional astronauts' breakfast was steak and eggs.

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Two Soviet musicians seek asylum

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, April 12

The son and grandson of Dmitri Shostakovich, the late Soviet composer, were being kept in an undisclosed spot in Bavaria today after defecting. Mr Maxim Shostakovich, aged 42, who is the conductor of the Soviet Radio Symphony Orchestra, and his son, Dmitri, aged 19, the orchestra's pianist, slipped away after a concert in Bavaria last night and asked for asylum.

Nuremberg police said that after a concert in Furtch theatre, the two men travelled with the orchestra by bus to Nuremberg, checked in at an hotel, and then turned up at the local police station.

Bavarian and federal authorities declined to give any further information about the two, except to say that they were "somewhere in Bavaria" and that their request for asylum was being examined.

A spokesman for the Nuremberg police said strict instructions had been given by the Foreign Ministry not to say anything more about the case. A Foreign Ministry official said: "You can understand that this is politically a very delicate matter."

Joe Louis dies in Nevada

Las Vegas, Nevada, April 12—Joe Louis, who held the world heavyweight championship longer than any other man in boxing history, died today. He was 66.

A family friend said he had a heart attack at his home and was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead. Only hours before he had attended the heavyweight championship fight between Larry Holmes and Trevor Berbick—121.

Obituary, page 14

Union backs 24-hour strike at banks

From David Felton
Labour Reporter
Blackpool

Leaders of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union last night sanctioned a 24-hour strike next week to be followed by an overtime ban and work-to-rule by 3,000 staff in high street banks in several parts of the country.

The union executive also gave approval for a ballot of all its 72,000 clerical and managerial staff in the five main British clearing banks, with a strong recommendation for national industrial action—probably prolonged strikes.

Operations of the "Access credit card are also to be disrupted next week by the 24-hour strike which will be followed by more strikes on rotation within different departments.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of BIFU, said: "We are confident that the action will be very effective."

The date for the strike will not be announced until Wednesday "to give the banks as little time as possible to prepare for it," said Mr Mills.

The executive, meeting in Blackpool on the eve of the union's annual conference, also demanded a firm guarantee that strikers would not be victimised.

BIFU is pressing for an improvement of the employers' "final" 10 per cent pay offer, accepted by the Clearing Bank Union. The employers are to impose the deal without BIFU's agreement.

The one-day strike will hit banks in Yorkshire, Merseyside, the West Country, Midlands, and the West End of London.

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Mr Haughey hails Sands win

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The mood of Protestants and "loyalists" in Northern Ireland has hardened abruptly and dangerously after the Provisional IRA's election victory in Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, inflicted further humiliation on the Unionist camp on Saturday by issuing a veiled prediction that progress would be made towards a united Ireland within a year.

He said of the Fermanagh poll, won by Mr Robert Sands, the Maoist prison hunger striker: "I am certain it was not a vote for violence. To represent it as such would be tragic. We asked people to abide by the political process and the ballot box, so we have to accept this as the result and deal with it as such."

There is widespread fear in loyalist paramilitary circles of the possibility of an increased campaign against Republican activists.

Such is the mood of bitterness that the political wing of the Ulster Defence Association, biggest of the Protestant paramilitary forces, is in danger of collapsing under pressure from the military wing. An emergency meeting has been called this week to consider its future.

The Official Unionists were in disarray last night over what to do about the election of Mr Sands, aged 27, a member of the Provisional IRA, for the past nine years.

He appeared in a statement smuggled out of the IRA block where he is on the forty-third day of his hunger strike, for British politicians to resist moves to oust him.

The Official Unionists' leadership is to have consultations today with other parties at the invitation of Mr Francis Fynn, Leader of the Commons.

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Basque party ready to survive coup

The Basque Nationalist Party is taking the threat of another military coup attempt in Spain so seriously that it has drawn up plans for a possible underground organisation.

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BR seeks tax on firms to save London lines

British Rail is to seek a payroll tax on the London industry, heavy stores and insurance groups to help to finance the South-east commuter service. It also wants a contribution from the rates of such commuter centres as Brighton.

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Key Civil Service union staff reject 7% offer

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Leaders of one of the main Civil Service unions have threatened to disrupt ports and airports over Easter in dispute with their own officials over a pay offer exactly like the Government's 7 per cent proposal.

Full-time officials of the 109,000-member Society of Civil and Public Servants, including Mr Gerry Gillman, the general secretary, staged a half-day walkout in protest at being offered the same increases over which they are leading strike action.

The entire union staff of 120 stopped work at lunchtime last Friday. They belong to the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, and they argue that it is wrong for the SCPS to emulate Mrs Margaret Thatcher's pay restraint policies.

Pay for the officials is linked in an appropriate grade in the Civil Service. Negotiating officers are paid £9,000 to £14,000; the general secretary is paid assistant secretary rates,

which range from £16,500 to £30,000. The SCPS national pay officials' committee rejected the offer of the Government's 7 per cent offer. The union traditionally gives its officers the same pay rises that they negotiate for their members, but that link is being called into question.

Just when the Civil Service unions are striving to restore the relationship with private sector pay movements, their negotiators are turning away from their own link with wage rises in the Civil Service.

Mr Len Keeping, the SCPS president, who chairs the union's management, said last night: "We are disappointed at the offer. We are still in discussions with them."

Further talks on their pay claim are to take place tonight, on the eve of an intensified round of industrial action that will cause delays at ports and airports over the next week.

Civil Service unions have announced that working to rule by customs staff and lightning

strikes by immigration officers will hold up an estimated 300,000 travellers over the holiday period.

The action marks a fresh departure in the campaign by the Council of Civil Service Unions to force the Government to increase its 7 per cent pay offer and restore arbitration and the machinery for comparing salaries movements with those in the private sector.

Until this, the sixth week of the selective strike campaign, the unions have insisted that their action was designed to affect the Government and not the public.

Airports named by the unions as involved in the working to rule by customs officers and walkouts by immigration staff will include Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Luton, East Midlands, Aberdeen, Liverpool, Bournemouth, Exeter, Cardiff, Birmingham, Newcastle and Prestwick.

Ports where action is being called are Dover, Ramsgate, Felixstowe, Harwich, Weymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Newhaven, Avonmouth and Felixstowe.

Steel union faces call for review of affiliation

By Our Labour Editor

Mr William Sims, the steelworkers' leader, yesterday issued a warning that moderate trade unions may defect to the Social Democrats "unless the Labour Party gets back to its traditional values of democracy."

His union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, faces a move by Teesside steelmen to force through a review of party loyalty, including the issue of possible affiliation to the SDP.

The initiative comes in a motion to the union's annual conference, to be held in Bournemouth, and the union's conference arrangements committee has to decide in two weeks whether the challenge to Labour Party affiliation is to be permitted to go on the final agenda.

In a wide-ranging political article for *ITC Banner* being published this week, Mr Sims says: "We now see the condemnation of the Social Democrats by the Labour Party, and while this to some degree underestimates the degree of understanding we should remember what led to the split."

And let us be honest, unless the Labour Party gets back to its traditional values of democracy, tolerance, fair-mindedness and understanding, we shall see more and more comrades leaving the party and joining the new group."

Mr Sims, who has identified himself with the right-wing caucus seeking to reverse the decision by the Wembley special party conference depriving MPs of the main say in electing Labour's leader and deputy leader, insists: "I have no intention of leading my union in any other direction than that of the Labour Party. I prefer to fight from within."

"There is a great danger, however, that if the changes in Labour Party policies are such that they may be unacceptable to the British workers, some trade unions may find it difficult to align themselves any longer with Labour because the Labour Party we used to know will have perished."

Recalling his open alignment with such figures as Mr Terence Duffy, of the engineers, Mr Sims said: "There were others who would privately agree with us but would not publicly take a stand."

"However, the split has done one good thing. It has mobilized some of those in the Parliamentary Labour Party who spoke in private but who were unwilling to speak in public."

Mr Sims conceded that the attraction of the Social Democrats is "bound to be very strong to many people in this country" if Labour Party moderates do not succeed

Mr Healey lambasts party militants

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Mr Denis Healey, in his first public counter-attack since being challenged by Mr Wedgwood Benn for the Labour Party deputy leadership, condemned a "minority of authoritarian extremists" in the party yesterday and said they were "Mrs Thatcher's secret weapon."

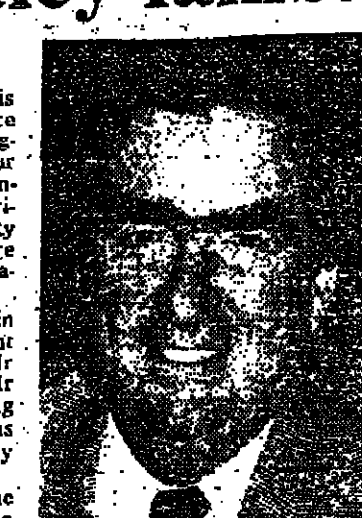
Addressing a meeting in Hastings of the centre-right Labour Solidarity campaign, Mr Healey did not mention Mr Benn by name. But having denounced the party reforms Mr Benn champions, he hardly needed to.

Mr Healey said that some were determined to pursue their argument, "even to the point of wrecking the party altogether, rather than accept defeat." The argument was between those for and against parliamentary democracy, he said.

Mr Benn, of course, insists that he stands by parliamentary democracy, as do most of his allies. But Mr Healey offered no distinction in attacking Mr Benn's cherished reforms.

He declared: "That system can victimize MPs or councillors of whom they disapprove: that councillors should be forced to swear oaths of loyalty to the caucus."

Mr Healey continued: "This authoritarian minority argues that parliamentary democracy is incapable of producing real progress; that



Mr Healey: "A sour and intolerant sectarianism."



Mr Benn: Unnamed object of the attack.

every Labour Government since the war was a failure which betrayed the working class; and there is no difference between Mrs Thatcher and Jim Callaghan or Michael Foot: that socialism cannot be achieved through the ballot box."

The British people would never vote for a party which held those views.

Yet, Mr Healey contended, they do not care whether the Labour Party wins the next election or not... they do not care how many of our supporters turn to other parties, how many of our active members give up in disgust at their sour and intolerant sectarianism."

A former Benn ally, Mr Eric Heffer, seemed to challenge himself from the challenger in a speech on Saturday. Also speaking in Hastings, Mr Heffer said: "We must not believe that any one individual totally embodies party policy and must be blindly followed," a clear reference to Mr Benn. Further, "A strong must be made out of thinking that any one individual is in so total disagreement with party policy that he must be regarded as an enemy," a reference to Mr Healey.

Whitehall official wants guide for conduct over threat of tyranny

From Peter Hennessy
Brighton

What should a civil servant do if he or she was required to suppress the truth or discover a government was moving the country secretly towards tyranny?

The question was raised on Saturday by Mr John Ward, general secretary of the top officials' union, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, in an address to a Royal Institute of Public Administration conference at Sussex University in Brighton.

Mr Ward said that under present Civil Service rules an official who felt the tasks he was required to perform were unethical had the choice of sacrificing his career by resigning, or of leaving the information to the press. That was unethical and unconstitutional.

"It could indeed be argued that if a government were, for example, clandestinely moving towards a more authoritarian state, the civil servant would have a duty to speak out and warn the unsuspecting public. But this raises the question of to whom ultimately a civil servant owes his loyalty."

Faced with instructions to present government policy in a way that suppressed relevant

facts or involved lying, could it be argued that a civil servant should refuse to perform his or her duties if ministerial policies failed to take their interests into account, Mr Ward wondered.

He suggested that the time may have come for establishing "some sort of machinery for action" for officials who believed their ethics were being compromised by a government they were obliged to serve. After presenting his paper, Mr Ward said he favoured the more radical of the solutions he outlined, the establishment of a such circumstances.

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Faced with instructions to present government policy in a way that suppressed relevant

From the grassroots: After the euphoria, the hard graft of politics

Building up a national SDP organization

By Ian Bradley

The Social Democrats (SDP) have now reached the difficult stage when the glamour of their launching is wearing off. They must get down to the hard graft of building a national organization and formulating detailed policy.

Members of the Gang of Four were making clear at the end of last week that they regard the party as well on course to reach their target of a membership of 63,500 (that is, 100 members in each parliamentary constituency) by the end of the year.

Social Democratic groups have sprung up in many constituencies, some of them before the launch of the SDP. They will have provisional status until the local elections and committees. The timetable for the elections is likely to be as follows.

Computerized SDP circulars with the names and addresses of those who have joined the party in each constituency will be sent, next month, to the steering committees of the nearest provisional local group.

Public meetings will then be held, at which more local members will be recruited and nominations sought. Officers and

committees will be elected on a system of proportional representation and possibly by postal ballot.

That is expected to be completed by July, when it is hoped that the party will have a fully fledged and properly constituted system of local branches.

The SDP has decided to organize itself initially on an area rather than a constituency basis. The areas will be shire counties; metropolitan districts and London boroughs. One of the main reasons for choosing that structure is to facilitate agreements with the Liberals.

The argument is that if party members regard themselves as attached to a larger area they will not mind so much if a Liberal stands in their own particular constituency, since there will be Social Democrats standing in the area.

It is too early for the party to assess the geographical spread of its membership and to rebut the impression of many outside observers that it is strong in the South and weak in the North.

However, Mrs Shirley Williams admitted at a press conference to launch her book last week that there was less sup-

port in Scotland than in the rest of Britain.

As the only political party in Britain with a fully computerized list of members, the SDP is intending to use postal ballots and referendums to consult its members and formulate policy.

It may dispense with the traditional custom of national party conferences at seaside resorts in the autumn, although there are likely to be regional conferences and a national council.

Use of equally sophisticated techniques involving new technology is likely to be a feature of the work of the Radical Centre for Democratic Studies, a small think tank which, although separate from the SDP, is working in conjunction with it in the areas of electoral research and policy making.

The centre was set up in March last year by Mr James Daly, a senior lecturer in industrial relations at the North East London Polytechnic, and acted as an unofficial research organization for Mr Roy Jenkins when he was in Brussels.

It has recently published a voting study, *The Road from Limehouse to Westminster*, by

Mr Michael Oakeshott, a former Labour parliamentary candidate and political adviser to Mr Jenkins, which argues that a Social Democrat alliance with the Liberals is likely to win between 103 and 399 seats at the next general election.

The centre's next publication will contain the detailed results of an opinion poll carried out in Paddington, London, which was reported in *The Times* on April 7. It suggested that the social democrats would come second, the Conservatives first and the Greater London Council election in the borough next month.

Mr Daly feels that polling is going to become a much more important element in politics. He says: "Canvassing and door-knocking are a thing of the past. I think the politician is going to be increasingly dominated by small pressure groups with good research back-up rather than enormous party organizations."

The centre, based in the front room of Mr Daly's home in the North London suburb of Finchley, is a "small" but "useful" philosophy of its founder.

He hopes that it will soon be publishing discussion papers on the health service, Northern Ireland and unemployment.

Lead in petrol is likely to be reduced soon

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A cut in the amount of tetraethyl lead allowed in petrol as an anti-knocking agent is expected to be imposed shortly by the Government.

The new level, to be introduced gradually between now and 1985, will reduce the quantity of additive from 0.40gms a litre to 0.15gm, which is the standard adopted in West Germany and proposed by advisers on environmental pollution to the European Commission.

A final decision is expected by the Cabinet after Easter; and it is a response awaited for 13 months, since the proposal was first made by the Health and Safety Commission, chaired by Professor Patrick Lawther, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, reported on the effect of lead contamination on health, and particularly of the risks to children.

One of their main recommendations was a progressive reduction in the amount of airborne lead; but the committee considered lead pollution from a wide variety of sources, including old water pipes, lead-based paints, industrial emissions and car exhausts.

While acknowledging that organic lead used in petrol is

a highly poisonous compound known to cause brain damage, the committee is not prepared to give an unqualified endorsement to studies suggesting that very tiny amounts of lead from petrol, is a cause of mental retardation.

The studies that have shown a connexion between a low IQ in some children and the amount of lead found in their bodies, monitored by examining their teeth, are highly circumstantial. But the case against lead, from cases of acute clinical poisoning in areas where old lead plumbing exists and paint is being found in poor housing conditions, and from the growing evidence of sub-clinical effects from airborne dust, has convinced the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of the Environment that tighter regulations are needed.

Resistance comes from the Treasury, the Department of Energy and the Department of Industry, who argue that the cut in lead level from 7,000 tons a year to about 2,500 tons a year, would cost £200m. That would be for the extra oil needed in the refining process to produce petrol suitable for car engines.

The church leaders, however, questioned the need for the TUC's call to "demand a return to full employment". They said: "To us it seems unlikely that with the introduction of new technology there will ever be a return to full employment in the old terms."

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TUC march wins a blessing

Long-term unemployment is an affront to human dignity, the Merseyside church leaders of all denominations say in a statement today. They support the TUC's unemployment protest march from Liverpool to London which begins on May 1.

They say that they do not regard the march as a political and that daily they see the dispiriting effect of unemployment on Merseyside.

The statement said jobless statistics gave a very inadequate picture. They cannot convey the affront to human dignity of living in poor housing conditions, and from the growing evidence of sub-clinical effects from airborne dust, has convinced the Department of Health and Social Security and the Department of the Environment that tighter regulations are needed.

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March jobless figures misleading, MP says

By Our Political Editor

The Government was accused yesterday of "cooking" last month's unemployment total by carrying out, unannounced, a special review of the register designed to remove people who do not claim benefit.

Mr John Grant, a Labour spokesman on employment, said that was done "to ensure that last month's total stayed unexpectedly, if narrowly, below the 2.5 million mark in advance of the TUC's week of activities."

Mr Grant conceded there was no reason for checking the registers of those seeking work to ask if they still needed it. But he said: "It was highly suspicious that such a stringent scrutiny should be mounted at this time."

He maintained that it was "deplorable and deceitful" of Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, not to have disclosed in the Commons that the figure was affected by the special review.

Mr Prior had approved instructions for the review to be conducted in February at Jobcentres throughout the country, he said. It was only in a parliamentary answer to a Scottish MP, however, that "belated confirmation" of the review had been given.

Mr Prior left for a visit to West Germany last night and was unavailable for comment.

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Unemployed youths hold first national rally

By Mark Jackson,
of The Times Educational Supplement

Four thousand unemployed teenagers who rallied in Hyde Park, London, yesterday to demand jobs, cheered pop stars and politicians who told them they had a right to work.

Forty coaches brought contingents from all over Britain, including Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, including school-leavers accompanied by their teachers and youth workers. One group had taken 10 days to march from Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Mr Eric Varley, Shadow Secretary of State for Employment, said government schemes for the young unemployed, however useful, were no substitute for real jobs. "Putting people to work is no easy task, but it also makes for social cohesion

and social harmony", he said. The Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev James Thompson, said that if young people spoke for themselves the Government would have to listen. He asked: "Why is it that the Stuck Exchange today is higher than it has been for several years? What is the capital being used for?"

Mr Peter Hurd, Labour MP for Rother Valley, said that although the Labour and Liberal parties had provided speakers, the Conservatives had declined.

The rally, the first national demonstration by the young unemployed, started as an idea for a purely local meeting.

Mr Roger Hope, the organizer, a Rotherham youth officer, said: "It just snowballed. We got offers of support and help from all over the country."

Owen promise of big reforms if elected

By Our Political Editor

The Social Democrats would not shrink from introducing substantive constitutional reforms, including devolution, if elected in 1984, Dr David Owen said in a speech on Saturday.

"It must grapple with both devolution and decentralization, recognizing the distinctive and differing needs of the two nations, Scotland and Wales, and of the English regions," he said.

Mr Owen, in accepting the need for a two-chamber Parliament, introduced substantive reform of the House of Lords to make it a more credible second chamber, which no sensible person would wish to abolish.

"We must face the need for an extension of genuine industrial democracy, not based on single-channel trade union representation, but in the last analysis on the right of the individual worker to vote in a secret ballot to exercise his or her democratic right."

"Such a package of radical reform is a major political challenge. It will not be easy to achieve the right balance but it must be done. The past of the government is going to be of Whitehall centralization must be stemmed."

"We will need to develop in an open dialogue with the people of this country these reforms so that when we introduce them they are supported and sustained by the British people

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FROSTS Warm Cold. Clouds. Rain. Wind. Direction. Force. Visibility. Sea. State. Remarks.

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BR seeks tax on City and West End to save commuter service

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

British Rail is to seek a payroll tax on West End stores, City banks and insurance companies and central London industrial firms to help to meet the cost of its south-east commuter service.

It also wants a contribution from the rates from places as far out as Brighton, Portsmouth, Reading, Bedford, Peterborough, Cambridge and Ipswich.

It argues that without the railway commuter service, those places would be considerably less prosperous. The railway is an essential part of their infrastructure and they should pay to maintain it.

That is the main plank of a fresh approach to be made by British Rail to the Government, MPs and public in an effort to save its threatened London commuter services, which lose £150m a year on £350m fare revenue, and at £90m a year are receiving less than half the investment they need.

The £150m support grant paid by the central Government must be increased to between £230m and £280m by 1983 if the services are not to be cut again and again, as they were last winter.

To ask the commuter to pay all the extra is not a practicable course, British Rail says. That would require a 25 per cent fare rise on top of inflation, which many people would refuse to pay. Traffic would decline and services would take another plunge.

Giving the whole bill to central government would be regarded by many as unfair, British Rail says, because that means the transfer of resources from country to town, from depressed provinces to the relatively prosperous capital, and from poorer to better-off members of the community.

Although only 400,000 people use the commuter services each day more than a million are regular users, and all 17 million in the south-east commuter area benefit one way or another, British Rail says.

Without them City firms would not get their staff, and West End stores, restaurants and theatres would lose both staff and customers. Towns further out would lose income in the form of rates and consumer expenditure that the commuters' pay packets provide.

"The question is," a senior British Rail manager said, "are the services to be allowed to decline and rot, or are they to be maintained to a similar standard to other areas of life in the South-east? If the latter, who benefits, who pays?"

"London exists only because people are prepared to live in Haslemere and travel to work. Tunbridge Wells exists only because people are prepared to live there and spend money earned in London."

For its part, British Rail is prepared for a significant management reorganization, with the establishment of a new London and south-east business sector separate from inter-city freight and provincial services, and separately responsible for the services it provides and the commercial and grant-aid revenue it absorbs.

It is also determined to fight for further significant productivity gains, including widespread operation of one-man trains. But it says that the benefits from higher productivity would be largely absorbed by higher real earnings for the smaller workforce.

Aerial fleet on standby to disperse oil slicks

By Our Shipping Correspondent

Britain's capacity to fight coastal oil pollution will be boosted by the impending award of an important contract to private industry for a fleet of aircraft to be kept at instant readiness around the coast.

This switch to an air response marks a significant advance in pollution control. The aircraft will be used not only to spot and monitor oil slicks, but also to combat them with the help of recent advances in the chemical composition of dispersants.

The contract, worth about £750,000 a year, provides for six or more specially equipped twin-engine aircraft to be stationed at three airfields strategically sited in relation to the main areas of pollution risk. One will probably be in Kent, one in Cornwall and a third in north Scotland.

There will also be a chain of smaller support airfields around

the coast from which the aircraft will operate during an incident, serviced by road.

The aerial fleet will not replace the seaborne force of tugs and naval vessels used in the past, but will spearhead any future assault on oil slicks around the British coast. There will still be up to forty seagoing tugs at coastal points, 25 of them equipped with dispersant.

The new thinking since Britain set up a full-time marine pollution control unit under the Department of Trade two years ago is that a purely seaborne response is too slow and erratic even when helped by spotter aircraft. Dispersants need to be active within 48 hours before spilled oil emulsifies, spreads and resists dispersion.

The contract requires the capacity to deliver 10 tons of dispersant an hour within an hour of the alarm being sounded up to 100 miles out to sea.

Immigrants stay on months too long, report says

Thousands of immigrants are taking advantage of Britain's over-worked immigration service and staying in the country months longer than they should, the Home Office said on Saturday. The immigrants simply appeal against deportation or a refusal to vary their stay, whatever the merits of the case.

The Home Office discussion document says there were nearly 18,000 new appeals in 1979; but 16,520 were still unheard by the end of the year.

The system should be streamlined the report says. It recommends that appeals against deportation and refusal to vary stay should be merged into one right of appeal. Spoken hearings should be dropped in cases which can be settled by checking documents; and a time limit on providing grounds for appeal should be introduced as well as curbs on late appeals and those from short-stay visitors.

Mr Ian Martin, general secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, described the report as "abysmal".

He said that for the Home Office to be responsible for the appeals system was like "entrusting a review of criminal court procedures to the police and prosecuting counsel".

Dearer Metro

The price of BL's most popular Metro model, the Metro L, was raised on Saturday from £3,564 to £3,730.

Press Council censures 'The Sun' over payment for series on Mr Biggs

The Press Council censured *The Sun* today for "inexcusably" paying for a series of articles by Ronald Biggs, repeating the council's adjudication says, an offence for which the council strongly condemned the same newspaper 10 years ago.

The council, after consulting newspaper editors, published in 1966 a declaration of principle on payment for articles. Its provisions include: "No payment should be made for feature articles to persons engaged in crime or other notorious misbehaviour where the public interest does not warrant it".

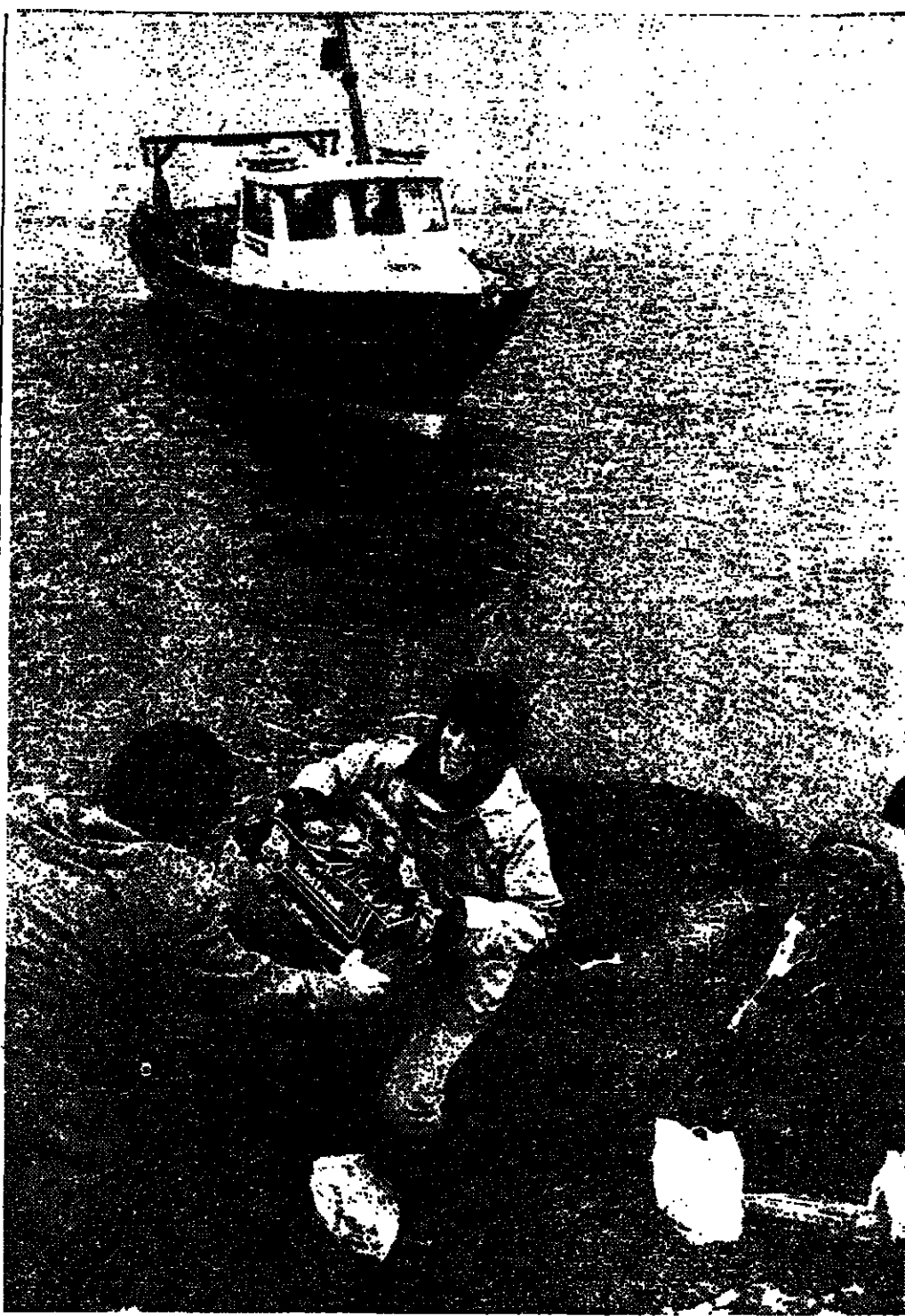
In 1970 the council upheld complaints against *The Sun* for publishing the memoirs of Mr Biggs, who had escaped from prison. It rejected the director's argument that because *The Sun* paid money into a trust fund for the Biggs children the series

was outside the scope of the declaration. Last February *The Sun* published, over five days, a feature entitled "Ronnie Biggs: My story", announcing that a book by him was being serialized exclusively in *The Sun*.

Mr Henry Douglas, legal manager, said that while *The Sun* recorded the council's conclusions on the earlier complaint it did not accept them. The newspaper did not accept that this year's series infringed the declaration of principle.

The newspaper contracted a normal commercial agreement with the publishers of the book, on which it drew for background. It believed that the money paid was a matter between them, the author of the book and Mr Biggs.

The Press Council's adjudication was:



"Desert island" job: Mrs Carol Warman getting help on Saturday when her week's supplies arrived on the lonely Skokholm island. Though only three miles off the Pembrokeshire coast, it can be cut off by

storms sweeping in from the Atlantic. Mrs Warman is leaving after two years during which she and her husband worked as warden and cook, catering for summer visitors who took birdwatching and natural history courses.

In brief

Ban plea to avert Southall march

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has been asked by the London Borough of Ealing to ban all marches for 12 days up to the GLC elections on May 7. The New National Front plans a march through the Southall area on April 25 in support of its GLC candidate.

The march, if held, would mark the second anniversary of the Southall riot, in which Mr Blair Peach, the New Zealand school teacher, died.

Hurt climber rescued

An injured climber, Mr Martin Joyce, aged 21, of Tordington, Bedfordshire, was rescued by helicopter after he had fallen 50ft on Dinas Cromlech, above the Pass of Llanberis, Gwynedd, on Saturday. He was "fairly comfortable" in hospital yesterday.

Bus drivers attacked

Bus crews in Sheffield, alarmed by recent incidents in which a driver was shot at with an air rifle and another attacked with acid, are to meet the passenger transport authority today to seek action to curb the violence.

Oil pollutes harbour

A large area of Christchurch harbour, Dorset, has been polluted by diesel oil leaking from the tanks of a partially submerged 40-ton dredger stranded on a sandbank four days ago.

Spray peril to bees

Farmers, spraying contractors and bee keepers were warned by the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday to take precautions to prevent Britain's honey bee population from being seriously damaged by the careless application of pesticides.

Mock air attacks

A three-day "realistic" test of Britain's air defences is to start today, with mock attacks on United Kingdom targets being staged by aircraft from seven Western air forces. RAF radar stations at Boulmer, Wold, north Yorkshire, will be "raided".

McNee defence of the police challenged

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Almost 99 of every 100 complaints against the police alleging assault during the past 10 years had resulted in no prosecution, Mr Michael McNee, Labour MP for Oldham, West, and campaigner about deaths in police custody, says in a letter to Sir David McNee, Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Mr McNee criticises Sir David's reply to disclosures in *The Times* of a Home Office research unit study alleging grave defects in the way assault complaints against the Metropolitan Police are investigated.

Sir David said in a statement: "All allegations of assault by police are meticulously investigated and the reports are submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions who may, if he so wishes, require further information or other witnesses to be interviewed."

Saying he has grave doubts about the effectiveness of the system, Mr McNee has sent to Sir David a dossier of 43 cases from different parts of the country, chosen from 150 sent to him, as containing "detailed, precise and hard enough evidence" as to be fully credible.

Mr McNee says: "In most cases those who made the complaint did use the official complaints procedure, but in almost every case entirely in vain. Given a record of this kind, I do not see how any fair and objective person can say that the system works satisfactorily and needs no change."

For most of the past 10 years, there had been some 2,500 to 3,000 assault complaints against the police each year. Yet according to the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, QC, only 364 had led to prosecution.

"In the case of 98.7 per cent of complaints there has been no prosecution. I quite understand that a certain proportion of complaints against the police are malicious, but I do not think that can account for a proportion anywhere near 98.7 per cent."

"Would you therefore conclude that these figures show that in 99 assault complaint cases out of every 100 the police are in fact blameless, or do

they show rather that there must be major deficiencies within the current system of investigation?"

Mr McNee also notes in his letter that there were 63 deaths in custody in England and Wales last year, including 20 in the Metropolitan Police district alone, far more than in any other year in the last decade and more than double the average annual rate in that period.

Sir David also said that all complaints were submitted to the Police Complaints Board "who also have power to ask for further inquiry to be made, if desired, and may direct that disciplinary proceedings be instituted."

Mr McNee replies: "In fact, out of 12,000 complaints processed annually by the PCB they have requested further information in about 50 cases a year (less than 0.5 per cent) and recommended disciplinary charges in 15 cases a year (0.1 per cent)."

Because there is a rule preventing policemen being put into double jeopardy by having a decided case heard again, he says, the board is more or less precluded from having any independent role.

Mr McNee also challenges Sir David's statement that "instructions require that any prisoner complaining of assault, or showing any sign of injury, must be seen by a doctor."

Mr McNee quotes a case from his dossier to show otherwise:

"He was stopped while in the car, as a passenger, driven by his wife. He was asked to take a breathalyzer. Since the policeman suggested he and his wife had changed seats (though this would have been impossible with the police car on their tail), but refused. He was then taken to the police station and assaulted in full view of his wife. He received black eyes, broken nose, perforated ear drums, broken teeth and innumerable bruises. Photographs of his injuries were later taken by his wife. He was held at the police station for 16 hours, and only when the shift changed was he allowed to protest to a senior officer and get hospital treatment."

A number of other cases in the dossier tell a similar story, Mr McNee says. "In the light of such evidence I believe there is a clear case for providing a statutory right for persons in custody to call a doctor."

MPs likely to urge rise in jobless benefit

By Par Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Backbench MPs are expected to demand when the Finance Bill has its second reading today that cuts in unemployment benefit should be restored before the benefit becomes liable for tax.

They will remind ministers that the cut in real value last November was said to be an interim measure pending the move to bring the benefit into taxation. They will also cite official statistics showing that the value of unemployment benefit compared with earnings is now lower than at any time during the 1970s.

The Bill proposes to bring unemployment benefit and supplementary benefit for taxers' families into taxation in 1982. There is no objection from any political party to the principle of taxing benefits; but there is widespread concern that it is being proposed when unemployment benefits have been cut by 5 per cent in real terms.

In a briefing sent to all MPs the Child Poverty Action Group argues that the first claim on the £200m to £250m expected to be raised from taxing the benefits should be on restoring the real value of unemployment benefit. That would mean adding £1 a week for a single person and £2.65 for a married couple to unemployment benefit in 1982, on top of the rise for inflation due that year.

The group says that on Government estimates, restoration would cost £45m, little more than a fifth of the expected saving from taxing benefits.

The briefing also says that most families will pay more tax as a result of the freeing of personal tax allowances.

A report to MPs from the Low Pay Unit which urges them to reject the freezing of personal allowances. If that measure goes through, the report says, the combined effects of the last two Budgets will mean that only those earning £325 a week or more will pay less tax than before the Government took office in 1979.

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BAOR may be reduced to three divisions and lose 1,000 posts

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The number of divisions in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR) will almost certainly be cut from four to three under defence plans which will be announced by the Government later this year.

The reorganised divisions would be larger than the present ones, but the withdrawal of a divisional headquarters alone would save more than 1,000 posts as the Army fights to curb rises in manpower and money.

It will reverse the decision to change from three large divisions to four smaller ones, which was taken as part of an earlier economy scheme resulting from the last defence review of 1974-75.

The Royal Navy is drawing up proposals to include the introduction of smaller and cheaper vessels in an attempt to carry out Nato tasks more economically in future.

Still more fundamental changes are likely to be announced by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, in the summer.

None is likely to feature, however, in Mr Nott's first defence White Paper which he is due to present to Parliament on Wednesday.

A spokesman for the Secretary of State will explain that the White Paper this year should be seen as a holding operation while he and his ministerial team prepare their long-term strategy.

The Services are presenting various options to Mr Nott and his men. They will make their decisions after the long-term costings review in midsummer.

The costings review is an annual exercise in which the Ministry of Defence examines its cash profits over the next 10 years and makes what adjustments it can to avoid any insurmountable peaks in defence spending. It also looks at the likely gap between costs and commitments in the present financial year, a gap that could widen alarmingly in 1981-82.

Mr Nott's chief ambition is

to minimize the annual agony by pruning commitments where possible and making Britain's contribution to Nato more cost effective. Last week in a speech in Bonn he pointedly reminded the Allies that some countries (obviously Britain) were being forced to spread their resources too thinly over a range of tasks, and that Nato needed to prepare for a decade of dramatic change.

He is expected to return to the theme at the Nato Defence Planning Committee meeting in Brussels next month.

The results of his defence review, although the word "review" is virtually banned in the ministry, should be announced before Mr Nott starts the summer recess. That is Mr Nott's intention, anyway, although many remain sceptical about whether he will manage to meet the deadline.

Sources confirm that despite the need for economies, the government decision to procure the Trident nuclear missile from the United States to replace the Polaris as the country's strategic deterrent in the 1990s is regarded as sacrosanct.

Far more likely is that Mr Nott will warn Nato ministers next month that Britain must make some changes in its contribution to the forward defence of central Europe or to the protection of the eastern Atlantic sea lanes.

Meanwhile Mr Nott has also to decide between now and midsummer how far the Services can be endowed with the capability for military intervention outside the Nato area.

The term "rapid deployment force" has become almost as embarrassing as "defence review" within the ministry. A Government that is trying to reduce commitments is hardly in a position to take on any more.

Amid all the back-peddalling that is now evident in Whitehall after Mrs Margaret Thatcher's heady speech in New York, there are also signs that the Government would like to make British forces more mobile than they are.

County council elections: Cheshire

Fight for votes will be over unemployment

By John Chartres

The prospect of the county of Cheshire, once described by an early historian as "the kingdom of gentleness", coming under Labour control is concentrating a number of minds in the still delectable corner of the North-west of England. The county is still thought of as being primarily rural, though partly inhabited by those whose members make a great deal of money in and around Manchester and Liverpool during the industrial Revolution and who have wisely to live upwind of the smoke from the mills and factories.

The Labour Party's present confidence of winning the county council elections on May 7, partly based on the facts that since the 1974 local government reorganization the nature of the county has altered substantially.

The rich pastures of most of the Wirral peninsula were surrendered to the recently created Merseyside Metropolitan County Council and many of the well-heeled voters living in late Bowdler and late Victorian re-nuanced and voting in the Metropolitan borough of Trafford, within the metropolitan county of Greater Manchester.

On top of that, Cheshire's county boundaries were moved north of the River Mersey to embrace such difficult employment areas as Widnes (nearly 800 job losses in the past 18 months) and Warrington (4,000 job losses).

In addition, there have been serious unemployment problems in the often unrecognized industrial areas in the centre of the "old county", places like Runcorn (4,000 job losses) and Rugeley (3,500 job losses) and which have a "new" county both the main party leaders,

Mr Allan Richardson, Conservative, and Mr Charles Hayward, Labour, agree on one point: that the county council election will be fought on the subject of unemployment in the North of England; and that whatever the Conservative controlled county council has done, either well or badly, will be of little moment.

Mr Richardson thinks a lot about the county council, which he says will simply be "a game of the Government". He and his supporters know they will have to work very hard to get their voters out, and to explain on the doorstep the local success they claim on the general theme of "value for money" in terms of rates.

Cheshire County Council has kept its precept rise down to 3 per cent. Mr Hayward thinks that Labour could win up to 40 seats in Cheshire, and that the Conservatives' stronghold of Cheshire is due for a rude awakening.

The possibility of Cheshire, like neighbouring Merseyside, becoming a "hung" council, where no party has a majority, because of the strong intervention by third party candidates, 39 Liberals and 16 others including three, perhaps prematurely, carrying social democratic colours.

There are 71 electoral divisions in the county under the recently revised boundaries; there had been 67. The Conservatives and Socialists have put 70 candidates in the 71 divisions, the total of 195 is the grand total of "new" county was created in 1974.

Need for £2m Severn flood scheme questioned

From Arthur Osman

Shropshire is expected to question the viability of a proposed £2m outflow flood alleviation scheme for Shrewsbury, mainly because it is 35 years since the town was severely flooded by the River Severn.

Shropshire's planning and transport committee has already expressed grave doubts. This week the county council's policy and resources committee is expected to agree.

The council has been told that it might be asked to contribute towards the scheme as it would be one of the main beneficiaries.

An official of the Severn-Trent Water Authority, which has drawn up the outline scheme, said yesterday: "We have had to defer the scheme from our current five-year programme because of economic pressure, but clearly Shrewsbury will gain one day be badly flooded."

"If they want to take a calculated risk, that is a matter for them, and we would not go head if they did not want it, but we would prefer to safeguard them."

It was suggested yesterday that since the last big flooding in 1946 and 1947 river flow control had become more sophisticated.

Putsch case lawyer gets death threat

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, April 12

One of the lawyers defending men charged in connexion with the recent attempted coup has been threatened with death and his dog has been poisoned.

Señor Fermín Macsore, who represents Lieutenant Pedro Liguero, Sánchez, a Civil Guard officer, who allegedly took part in the takeover of the Spanish Parliament on February 23, said his German shepherd dog recently died after being given poisoned food.

Señor Macsore said he later received a message, made of letters cut from newspaper headlines, which says: "After your dog, you're next."

In another development, legal action has been contemplated over the publication of an article signed by one of the most prominent coup figures, Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Tejero, and which appeared yesterday in the Madrid and Seville editions of the monarchist newspaper ABC.

The Attorney General has been asked to act against those responsible if evidence can be found of a violation of the law. In Seville, two left-wing political parties filed a complaint.

Alleging that the article involved an "apology for terrorism" and "incitement to subversion".

In the signed article, Colonel Tejero attempted to justify his actions as the leader of a group of paramilitary Civil Guard policemen who held hostage the Government and the Lower House of Parliament as part of an attempted military takeover. He described the attempt as a patriotic act and expressed no regret.

With a touch of pride, he recalled in the article how he was punished in the Basque province of Guipuzcoa and transferred to Malaga for tearing down the red, white and green Basque flag after it had been declared legal.

He was punished in Malaga for breaking up a political demonstration of "Marxist trouble-makers" which had been authorized by provincial authorities and punished in Madrid for writing to King Juan Carlos in an appeal for rejection of the Constitution, which he considered godless and destructive of national unity.

He was court-martialled and briefly imprisoned in Madrid for participating in the abortive "Galaxy" plot he said.

Klansmen injured

San José, California, April 12—At least three members of the Ku-Klux-Klan were injured when counter-demonstrators threw bottles and cans during a rally here. Police arrested 26 of the 1,500 people who came to prevent the rally.

Japan demands prompt US explanation of collision

Tokyo, April 12—A joint Japanese-American search found no trace today of the two men missing from the crew from a Japanese cargo ship which sank after a collision with an American nuclear powered submarine on Thursday.

Mr Taiso Noguchi, the captain, and Mr Sumio Matsubashi, first mate, have been missing since the collision between the 2,350-ton Nissho Maru and the submarine George Washington.

Thirteen other crew of the Nissho Maru were rescued by a Japanese destroyer early on Friday. Officials said today that the missing men were presumed to have been killed in the collision.

Japan seeks an early explanation for the collision, Foreign Ministry sources said today.

An explanation would be sought before the talks between President Reagan and Mr Jenko Suzuki, Japanese Prime Minister, due to be held in early May. Japan is expected at the talks to be asked to increase defence spending, the sources said.

Peking-Hongkong link

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, April 12

The Peking People's Daily has opened its first bureau in Hongkong. Two correspondents for the official party newspaper, who already have joined the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hongkong, will be covering news from the South-East Asian region as well as from the colony. They will have direct telephone and Telex connections with the Peking head office.

The British Embassy in Peking formally approved the application to open the bureau, which has been welcomed as further evidence of the continuing promotion of neighbourly relations between Hongkong and Peking.

Concurrently, Hongkong's two leading communist dailies, *Tu Kung Pao* and *Wen Wei Pao*, have established their bureaux in Peking, also for the first time.

Recently some Western newspapers have been closing their Hongkong "China-watching" offices and transferring to Peking. But most foreign correspondents would prefer to be still based in Hongkong.

With Sri Lanka facing the prospect of a complete breakdown in power supplies and a total blackout in a fortnight, President Jayewardene today took over the functions of the Minister of Power and Energy.

In the last few weeks the country has undergone its worst power crisis and for the first time power cuts are not being relaxed even for the Sinhalese and Hindu new year holidays today and tomorrow.

So far only factories operating in the free trade zone 20 miles north of Colombo have been exempted from the power cuts,

Basque nationalists plan coup survival strategy

From Richard Wigg

Vitoria, April 12

The Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) take last February's failed military coup so seriously that they have decided to devise a strategy for survival in case another coup succeeds.

They believe their region's autonomy would be one of the first casualties of a military takeover to save Spanish unity. The decision to prepare to protect their leaders' lives and keep the party organization intact underground was taken at an extraordinary conference of the party, which ended here last night.

It had been called to study the ruling regional party's reaction to the events of February 23 and the Madrid government's decision to send troops to the region after the military wing of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization, decided to step up its campaign of violence after the coup attempt, and killed two army colonels.

An important section of the PNV, headed by Señor Zabier Arzallus, the president, said the party was engaged in a struggle with ETA for the allegiance of the Basque people, but it could not give complete support to the fight against "violence" if the Madrid government was simultaneously engaged in undermining the Basque autonomous government's powers.

The PNV is a middle-of-the-road Christian democratic party. Reporting on the autonomous government's first year in office, Señor Carlos Garai-koechea, the Chief Minister, said that since January there had been no transfers of power by Madrid to its administration.

The PNV is the first party in Spain to have organized a special conference to analyse the coup attempt.

PNV leaders have been disappointed that West European political parties did not clearly tell Spain's top generals what would happen if they were tempted to stage another coup,

such as barring entry to the EEC.

Señor Arzallus said: "We have lived through February 23 and we have no guarantees that there will not be another coup. If it were successful, our party would be faced with clandestinity, prison or exile before a dictatorship. We should ourselves be in the same camp as those with whom we are supposed now to be fighting."

"If there was a solid political situation created by Madrid with the autonomous process, then all would be clear for us here."

The PNV was prepared to collaborate with the authorities in the intelligence field, telling its

supporters to pass on what they saw happening around them, who the "Enrastas" were, and how they were organized, to the extent that the Madrid authorities gave the Basque government effective power to act with the national police forces through an autonomous Basque police force.

But it was hypocritical, he said, for Madrid to come to the PNV "in extreme situations like the present" when it had consistently delayed solutions to the Basque problem in the past.

"We are convinced autonomy is the most secure road to take for eradicating terrorism. There are no other short-term solutions", Señor Arzallus said.



Together again in public, the diminutive Mr Deng flanked by Chou En-lai's widow and Chairman Hua.

Party rivals appear together in public for first time in five months

Chinese settle differences about Mao's role

By Francis Deron

Agence France-Presse

Peking, April 12

The Chinese Communist Party appears to have largely resolved the thorny problem of Chairman Mao Tse-tung's place in its history and the issue of his succession, observers here said today.

Their comments came after the publication by all national newspapers of an important article by General Huang Keqiong on the "mistakes and achievements" of Mao.

This issue was believed to have been the subject of disagreement in the past few weeks within the Chinese leadership, which is dominated but not completely controlled by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the party vice-chairman and architect of the anti-Mao campaign.

The account given by General Huang held Mao partly responsible for the 20 years of catastrophe China had suffered, first

in the economic field with the Great Leap Forward in 1958 and then in the political field with the Cultural Revolution from 1966-1976.

Mao was blamed for having launched these two campaigns. The Chinese authorities have just admitted that the first movement was over the country about 100,000 Yuan (\$30,000) and the second almost degenerated into civil war.

However, much of the blame was put on the Communist Party for approving the "erroneous" decisions of Mao who, the article said, was acting with good intentions.

Observers believed that the compromise language was aimed at avoiding the ill-will of the extremely sensitive Maoist faction within the leadership whose support was badly needed for China's modernization.

The release of General Huang's article yesterday coincided with the first joint public

appearance for about five months of Mao's chosen successor Chairman Hua Guofeng and Vice-Chairman Deng.

The two developments suggested that top-level agreement had been finally reached on an official assessment of Mao's place in history.

Mr Hua, who is expected to resign from the chairmanship in favour of a protégé of Mr Deng, was believed to have previously refused such a display of unity.

He had virtually disappeared from the public scene since January 25 when Mao's widow, Jiang Qing, a prime mover of the Cultural Revolution, was tried and given a suspended death sentence that will probably become life imprisonment.

He appeared beside Mr Deng and the man who is going to succeed him, Mr Hu Yaobang, general secretary of the party, at a funeral service for Mao Dun, the writer. Observers regarded their appearance together as a key step in the pro-

cess of convening the sixth plenum of the party Central Committee.

In addition to the power transfer from Chairman Hua to Mr Hu, the meeting will have to approve the verdict on Mao. The plenum had been expected since the beginning of the year.

The Chinese Army, which has been trained in Maoist schools, has been reluctant to follow Mr Deng's pragmatic policies or accept the more severe judgments regarding Mao.

Observers found it significant that it was a military man, general Huang, who had been entrusted with the task of presenting the final assessment on Mao in his article, originally printed in the Army's newspaper *Liberation Daily*.

The general, himself a victim of Maoism who was dismissed in 1959 after opposing the "Great Leap Forward", emphasized that Mao's mistakes were secondary compared with his achievements.

More Thais involved in foiled plot

From Neil Kelly

Bangkok, April 12

The senior military officer conducting an official inquiry into the recent attempt to overthrow the Thai Government indicated today that more people had been involved in the plot than first thought.

"What we have seen is only the tip of the iceberg," said General Saliyud Kerdpol, Chief of Staff of the Supreme Command. He added that he would "flush out those in hiding to prevent another attempt to overthrow the Government."

Everyone who appeared to have been involved would be investigated no matter how prominent and influential they were, he said.

Until General Saliyud's statement, fewer than 300 were thought to have had an active role in the abortive coup. So far 35 men have been charged with offences ranging from creating unrest to treason.

The Government has transferred large numbers of military and police officers and civilian officials in the past few days. A cavalry regiment was abruptly moved out of Bangkok to new quarters 70 miles away in an attempt to neutralize its influence. Its commander was one of the coup leaders and is still at large.

The Government is clearly in a dilemma over how to treat those found guilty of the most serious charges. Official statements indicate that death sentences are unlikely except possibly in the case of General Sant Chitpradima, the Army Deputy Commander in Chief, who led the coup attempt.

Although the Government in Malaysia denies it, General Sant is believed by Thai officials to be in that country.

Hint that Prince may tour Commonwealth nations

From Our Correspondent

Wellington, April 12

Officials travelling with the Prince of Wales, who flew in Australia from Christchurch this morning, do not rule out the possibility of his making a tour of the main Commonwealth countries soon after his wedding in July.

The Prince told a farewell state dinner in his honour last night that the next time he came here he would be accompanied by his bride. The visit has been an unqualified success. In days he saw a great deal of the country.

He caught trout, played polo, visited an agricultural show, attended concerts, danced at Government House, had a drive in the Mairangi in a Maori settlement on the shores of Lake Taupo and was honoured by

at Otago University. He drew large crowds wherever he went.

The Prince amused dinner guests by saying he had talked a lot of "unintelligent rubbish" on his popular walkabouts. Invariably when he asked youngsters what they would like to see, they would reply: "A prince."

Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, who was the host at the dinner said a less formal dimension had become noticeable in Royal visits over the last 20 or 40 years but without detracting from the dignity of ceremonial occasions.

Australia arrival: The Prince arrived in Canberra today and almost immediately turned a very formal welcome into a more relaxed affair with a 15-minute walk among the spectators.—UPI.

Liberals change tactics but Lévesque party likely to be reelected in Quebec

From John Best

Ottawa, April 12

The Parti Québécois is likely to be reelected in Quebec by a clear majority. Two opinion polls, published at the weekend, indicated that only a last-minute voting shift could keep the separatist party from a second consecutive victory over the Liberals in tomorrow's provincial election.

One survey, gave the ruling party, led by Mr René Lévesque, the Premier, a 14-point margin over the Liberals. Another gave it an eight-point margin. The Union Nationale party was running a dismal third in the polls.

Mr Claude Ryan, the Liberal leader, is continuing to profess optimism. He said his party's

own surveys showed a wide margin in favour of the Liberals.

During the final days of the campaign, issues relating to Quebec's place in the Canadian confederation, have played an increasingly prominent part. Earlier, economic and administrative issues predominated.

Last week Mr Ryan surprised many people by announcing that if elected, he will find a "quick agreement" with Mr Pierre Trudeau, the federal prime minister, on patriating the Canadian constitution from Westminster.

It was a surprising announcement because Mr Ryan had been almost critical as Mr Lévesque of the federal constitutional plan.

The Quebec Premier was quick to condemn Mr Ryan's apparent change of heart: "This means literally that he is ready to barter away some of the fundamental rights of Quebec which would be torn apart by that charter of rights."

Mr Lévesque said Mr Ryan has repeatedly said that if Mr Lévesque were re-elected, he would call another referendum over Quebec's sovereignty. Last year voters in the province rejected the Lévesque proposal for Quebec separatism.

The Premier has said, however: "I must repeat that there will be no referendum during a second mandate."

Air incidents cast shadow over Athens meeting

From Marco Modiano

Athens, April 12

Repeated Turkish violations of Greek air space in the Aegean in the past week provoked a formal protest to Ankara, and also fears that such incidents might sour a promising round of Greek-Turkish talks which begins in Athens tomorrow.

The talks, at the level of air traffic services, are designed to elaborate a system for the exchange of flight information over the Aegean. Such a system should allay some security preoccupations, especially on the Turkish side.

Mr Andreas Papandreu, leader of Pasok, the main opposition party in Greece, called for a postponement of the Athens meeting in view of repeated and "provocative" violations of Greek air space by the Turkish Air Force on April 8.

The opposition leader pointed out that these violations had followed closely a Greek gesture of goodwill which eased the access to Aegean international air space for Turkish military aircraft. The Government was seen to have learnt the lesson that concessions and gestures simply whet Turkey's appetite," he stated.

A Greek Government spokesman confirmed that Turkish military aircraft taking part in an exercise had violated Greek air space over the Aegean islands on six occasions on April 8. In five other instances they had penetrated the Aegean air space which comes under Greek jurisdiction for air traffic control purposes, without submitting flight plans in advance.

On six of these occasions the Turkish aircraft had been intercepted by Greek fighters and escorted out of the area, the spokesman explained. In the other five violations there had been no time for interception.

There has been considerable progress in settling the Greek-Turkish differences over Aegean air traffic in recent months. It was hoped that this week's talks in Athens would have produced such concrete results that when the Greek and Turkish Foreign Ministers met again in Rome early next month, they would be able to announce the elimination of this issue from the list of Aegean disputes.

The fact that the Greek Government refrained from publicizing these violations until they were disclosed by the leader of the Opposition suggests that the damage may not be irreparable.

Avalanche kills skiers

Davos, Switzerland, April 12

Five people skiing on the Piz Grailasca were killed in an avalanche.

Two bus crashes kill 75 people

Karachi, April 12—Forty-two people died when a bus left a bridge and plunged into a

irrigation canal in Larkana, 250 miles north of here, a Pakistan Government spokesman said.

From Manila it was reported that 33 people were killed and 18 injured. Last year voters in the north Philippines.

—Reuters, AP.

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White House welcome as President returns

still making a slow but sure recovery from a bullet wound in the head. The Washington policeman and the Secret Service agent who were protecting Mr Reagan are also recovering at their homes.

As he continues to gain strength, Mr Reagan will be spending much of his time in a freshly decorated solarium on the top floor of the White

For the next week at least the President will follow the tight daily schedule he established in his hospital suite—namely to meet a few aides and advisers and to read important documents for a couple of

The President's advisers hope that Mr. Reagan will feel well enough to deliver a short televised address to the nation, calling for support of the Administration's controversial foreign policy programs before

It is generally acknowledged by both Mr Reagan's doctors and advisers that the President will not be travelling far from the White House for the next few weeks at least.

A Secret Service spokesman said James McCaughey, aged 42, would be charged in Philadelphia tomorrow with threatening to kill the President.

Mr McCaughey is the fourth Pennsylvanian to be accused of threatening the President since Mr Reagan was shot in Washington on March 30. Charges of threatening the President were brought last week in the state against Robert Wilson,

New white

party in Zimbabwe planned

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, April 12

A prominent member of the Rhodesian Front Party has resigned his seat in Parliament to form a new party aimed at bridging the gap between whites

Mr André Holland, who was a deputy minister in the government of Mr Ian Smith and a staunch supporter of the party leader, said he had decided to

The Rhodesian Front, which holds all 20 seats in Parliament reserved for whites under the Constitution, has been the dominant, sometimes sole, political voice of white opinion

In a letter to Mr Didymus Murasa, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, which was published this morning, Mr Holland said white MPs needed to establish with the Government a relationship based on

Whites wanted a positive and alternative lead from a figure in their community, he said.

Its policy would be "to offer back the hand of genuine friendship extended by Mr. [unclear]." In general it would

A meeting is to be held later this week to elect an interim leader and plan to contest two by-elections with the Rhodesian front.

In spite of the dominance of the Rhodesian Front, there are grounds for the belief that a more moderate party might win its backing.

Mr Holland said today that he had gained the impression that the white commercial sector felt its best interests

The congress, impressively staged, managed under the aegis of Bernard and

...ward, the velvet curtain closed. It was unlikely to bring about any big changes on the domestic front. The most substantial discussion will concern the next five years' plan which will be discussed with great publicity just before the congress began.

Herr Hennecker and his, by the standards, youthful team of the "Gerasche" (Glasgow Journal is 60), are firmly in the saddle. Here, as in Moscow, the regime is waiting with bated breath for the next move.

Just at that moment, a white oil was lifted from a gleaming pedestal. The inscription behind him. Dressed in a new light grey suit, and holding his wife Bernadette by the hand, he gave a sign with both hands, stretching while the acclaim rose up to him.

He looked for all the world like the young hero who had come to brush away resignation and the spirit of the "Gerasche" merchants of illusion," as he called them.

It was not the easy way out, he declared. "To the so-called resignation, I wish to add a genuine realism of determination."

"Come to me if you want to live boldly. Come, the future belongs to you," he concluded to a roar of approval.

The signing of the "Marx-Lause", and the release of coloured balloons to carry his message of "Solidarity to the four corners of the universe."

Leader, article page 13

He was also concerned about the future of the country, leaving the congress they were uncertain about their future. He put this down to a poor performance by Front

The alternative to mutual cooperation was a relationship based on "bitter insults and recriminations," an apparent reference to frequent clashes in Parliament.

Two would-be Kenya woman sentenced

Government will sell three per cent of its stock in Japan

Lines to private investors and the same time we bring back on the social welfare programme.

At present about 10.4 million of the 17 million population are 60 years of age or older. As a result, government spends a lot of money on social welfare, mainly on pensions and medical care for the aged, nearly doubled between 1976 and 1980 to £13,300m.

Mr Doko's committee has apparently also come to the reluctant conclusion that the Government can only hope to move out of the red if it reduces subsidies to depressed industries, such as textile manufacturers,

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...the court's finding could only ... (about £540).

[illegible]

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Tasso
Jackson's Lane

Irving Wardle

The 259 Theatre Company are claiming this as the London premiere of Goethe's *Tasso*, and I await the counter-claims with much interest as the work strikes me as one of perennial topicality. An account of Tasso's life at the court of Ferrara, it was written in the French revolutionary period during the early years of Goethe's employment at the court of Weimar. It is, in other words, a declaration of independence by an emerging Romantic who was still in the pay of an eighteenth century patron. The parallels between Ferrara and Weimar are so obvious that they might have been continued as an insult, but for the paranoid character of Tasso himself, who was forever suspecting plots on his life, and once drove his aggrieved master to comment: "He ought to know that if such had been our design nothing would have been easier than to effect it."

Goethe took pains to develop this side of his hero to the full, so that any objection by the dual Karl August could be met with the disclaimer that Tasso was well known for harbouring "ungrateful" suspicions.

The course is thus clear for an examination of the condition of the dependent artist. Tasso is surrounded by apparent love and care on all sides.

The Accrington Pals
Warehouse

Ned Chaillet

Accrington rallied like no other town to the call to arms in the First World War. In a matter of days, volunteers created their own battalion and went off to train and fight as the Accrington Pals, 700 strong. No town sends so many men off to war without leaving suddenly hollowed families behind, with children separated from their fathers and women from their men.

Peter Whelan's play introduces the men who went off to battle, and follows them into the trenches, but, although the men are real enough and varied enough to emerge as individuals, his story is about the women left behind.

Some of them may be intended to be typical, and there are character sketches that are more jottings, expanded by the careful performances in Bill Alexander's production. More important, however, there is a real creation of a woman outside the society of Accrington, a character isolated and distressed. Her distance from the other characters is observed, developed tenderly in the writing and the performance, and

LPO/Jochum
Festival Hall

Noël Goodwin

A conductor needs to be as sure of his orchestra as he is of himself to launch the players directly into the demands of Richard Strauss's *Don Juan* in place of a more conventional overture. Eugen Jochum obviously had the fullest rapport with the London Philharmonic from the outset of his concert on Friday.

His performance of the Strauss tone poem not only had a keen response from the orchestra, in individual passages as well as in ensemble attack, but it also put the emphasis on musical worth more than on portraiture. Not that the character aspect was neglected, with ardent feeling in the love scene and an urge for adventure throughout, but the conductor avoided sentimental indulgence in favour of communicating his own sense of enjoyment in the music's nature and purpose.

He was, indeed, almost visibly able to relax with the aid of a chair on the podium, an unaccustomed feature for him which I understand was primarily to take the weight off a foot suffering from the after-effects of minor surgery. It must nevertheless be a very

Rip, Rig & Panic
Prunarium

Richard Williams

Rip, Rig & Panic, whose imaginative name is borrowed from the title of an old Roland Kirk album, contain two members of the now sadly defunct Pop Group, a remarkable ensemble who anticipated by a couple of years the current pop craze for "tribal" music, costumes and behavioural patterns. Unfairly maligned for their wonky but well-intentioned philosophizing, the Pop Group will at some time in the future be seen to have achieved an influence out of all proportion to their narrow reputation.

Bruce Smith, the drummer, and Gareth Sager, the multi-instrumentalist, are clearly intent on using the new group to make further explorations of the best ideas of the old. Now joined by a tenor saxophonist, a bass guitarist and a pianist, their music is more emphatically than ever an attempt to mate the wild surfaces of post-Coltrane jazz with the hard dance rhythms of funk.

The choice of the Prunarium in King's Cross for their London debut was typically adventurous, but it must also be said that the organization was characteristically chaotic. Lengthy periods of silence, of darkness, and sometimes of both together punctuated the evening, which also

Not only is he cherished by his dual patron, he spends the days in flattering conversation with the princess and the Duchess of Sanvitale, who treats him as a master-mind and crowns him with the laurel wreath for the first draft of his epic. Even at this stage he is discontented, as he knows the work is incomplete, and his fool's paradise collapses with the return of the Duke's Secretary of State, Antonio, a courtly man of action who endures the with a supercilious smile and then refuses his hand. Tasso challenges him, for which he is put under house arrest. Then the Duke grudgingly gives him a leave of absence to go to Rome and finish his work, at which point Tasso commits his second and fatal error by making a pass at the Duke's sister.

In other words, poets may bestow immortality on their patrons, but not aspire to a form of social equality. "I still regard you as mine even when you are abroad," declares the Duke.

Tasso was one of the first plays revived by Peter Stein's West German Marxist company, and its fable applies to artistic patronage in all times and places. The main objection to Adam Ambury-Smith's production is that it is set in a never-never land of scaffolding, furniture and gauze-draped lady stockings. It is a rough show, but the performances of Gary Cleave and Tim Leach disclose enough of the play to make one long for a major company to rediscover it.

is rich in commentary on the shifts of morals, values, and society that the war engendered.

Because it is a play in which the particular is important, Mr Alexander's production lingers on details that create a sense of truthfulness. He is aided by the spare ingenuity of Kit Surridge's design and the barely tangible school of disincarnate provided by John A. Leonard's sound design, which brings the rumble of warfare into scenes of heartside conversation and delicately amplifies the remote sound of lovemaking as the spinster May, haltingly rejects the clumsy advances of her young cousin, an artistically distracted lad preparing to leave for combat.

May is far from articulate about her frustrations and, when she tries to bend from the upright path she has followed, she is met with a cold indifference, the alienates the people closest to her.

Janet Dale inhabits the character with a taut restraint that seems to contain all the tensions of a life that has lost touch with the world around her. She has found strength, but at the loss of human contact. The other performances in *The Accrington Pals* are balanced portraits of people in a mortally wounded society, but Miss Dale illuminates them.

special delight, which those who make music for themselves can perhaps best share, to bring about the resplendent ease of spirit and mellowness of phrase with which much of the *D major* symphony of Brahms was invested in the second part of the programme.

I rejoiced particularly to hear the way in which he brought the long phrases of the first movement to their serene conclusion and began the second with the care for niceties of inner balance that characterized the performance as a whole.

To what extent his unusual setting of the violas on his right, but outside the cellos, contributed to that I am not certain, but there was no denying the richness of lower sonority in the second movement, and that the music, though the grassy third movement might have been more delicately pointed.

The Emperor Concerto of Beethoven brought the return manual indulgence in favour of communicating his own sense of enjoyment in the music's nature and purpose.

He was, indeed, almost visibly able to relax with the aid of a chair on the podium, an unaccustomed feature for him which I understand was primarily to take the weight off a foot suffering from the after-effects of minor surgery. It must nevertheless be a very

featured the intense folk-derived music of Tymon Dogg and a discotheque run by Donovan Letts, who spiked his dub-reggae tapes with shots of Public Image, Eno/Byrne and the Meters.

Rip Rig & Panic chose to perform without lights, so that the audience could catch the Prunarium slides of moonkeys and jungle scenes, projected on to a large screen behind the band. Sometimes the effects were complementary, in a simple but pleasing way; shots of rain forests, for example, were accompanied by a full-bodied saxophone invocation reminiscent of Pharaoh Sanders's work.

Smith's feverish drumming and Sean Oliver's impressively pugnacious bass operated to the manner of Ornette Coleman's recent electric band, laying down purposeful rhythms over which ensembles, guitar and piano engaged in dissonant interplay. Brief sections of massed percussion were suitably inspiring, as was Mark Springfield's piano interlude which played the influence of Don Pullen and Cecil Taylor.

Perhaps the most attractive feature of Rip Rig & Panic's work is their evident unwillingness to turn their spontaneity into a pop formula, an insipidly that differentiates them from the likes of Adam and the Ants. Such idealism may once again prevent their popular acceptance, but it makes me want to hear them again soon.

A voyage of exploration through T S Eliot

Berger Paints will not be having their annual sales conference at the New London Theatre this year. It is one of a number of commercial engagements which has had to be postponed, to make way for *Cats*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's first stage musical since *Evita*. The New London hardly had a happy opening with Peter Ustinov's *The Unknown Soldier* and his wife and since then it has not done much looking forward. But *Cats* could change all that and the New London, substantially restructured to accommodate its feline tenants, is at least going back to being a legitimate theatre.

The idea of using the New London for *Cats* came to Lloyd Webber when he was standing on the centre of its stage. "I had been kidnapped," he said, "to appear on *This is Your Life* and while the passing parade of long-lost cousins and aunts was going on, I took a look around the theatre and realised that it was what we had been looking for. The moment the show was over I abandoned Eamonn Andrews—it must have looked terribly rude—and rushed to the telephone to tell Trevor Nunn, who had been working on *Cats* with me, to tell him we had our space."

We had had a dream of using the Lyceum, but that had proved too big a task. Not that getting into the New London was particularly easy. The owners were more interested in using it as a conference centre, hence that Berger rearrangement, and we had a bit of a struggle. But the facilities are marvellous. The whole of the centre of the theatre, including parts of the seating, is now on a revolve and John Napier has created a complete cat world for us.

Cats' eyes are now peeping from posters outside, the New London and elsewhere; beneath them come the words LYRICS BY T. S. ELIOT. The idea for *Cats* came when Andrew Lloyd Webber picked up a copy of *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* at Heathrow. Half-remembered words and rhymes, to say nothing of feline names, came welling back and he realized that this was the basis of a musical theatre.

"I wanted to compose to an existing text rather than a commissioned one, although it's not quite true to say that I envisaged *Cats* as a musical. It began as a poem, a cycle in the manner of *Tell Me on a Sunday*. Indeed, that was how we tried it out at the summer festival in my house near Newbury. I made 10 settings of the *Possum* poems and sent them to C. G. Craven and Paul Nicholas performed them. T. S. Eliot's widow, Valerie, came down and it was under her influence that the whole thing became a musical."

She brought with her a number of unpublished items, poems, letters, and T. S. Eliot's lists of cat names. As we talked it became clear that *Old Possum* was conceived as a much larger book. For instance, the opening poem, *The Naming of Cats*, was part of a much longer piece



of verse which considered dogs as well. Then there was a letter which gave us the idea for our finale where we hope T. S. Eliot and all the cats will float up over London in a balloon.

"Perhaps most important of all there was a poem about Grisabella, a tarty cat who 'haunts the grimy Road of Tottenham Court'. Eliot deliberately suppressed that in a collection which was basically intended for children. By this time Trevor Nunn was involved. He had written to me after seeing *Tell Me on a Sunday*, saying that he had liked it. I'd seen his production of *The Comedy of Errors*, and later *Once in a Lifetime*, and it was clear that he had all the technical expertise for staging a musical. So it was a natural progression for us to go into partnership."

"Together we made a voyage of exploration through T. S. Eliot, going far beyond *Old Possum*, and we have woven

together the text of *Cats* using what is in print already with the fragments, such as the *Grisabella* one, which Valerie Eliot has given us. Sometimes we have just taken our cue from the poems themselves, such as 'The Songs of the Jellicles':

*Jellicles Cats come out to-night,
Jellicles Cats come out to-night,
The Jellicles Moon is shining—
Jellicles come to the Jellicle Ball.*

"So we are having a Jellicle Ball, eight minutes of sustained music which is at the very heart of the score. I hope that it sounds like the sort of music cats play at night."

Not very much has been heard from *Cats* in advance, unlike *Evita* which was on everyone's lips before the curtain even went up on the first night. There is 'Memory', which uses one of the *Possum* poems, *Rhapsody on a Windy Night*, played by the

LPO, but the orchestration is likely to change considerably as the New London. On another single Paul Nicholas sings 'Old Possum', which Lloyd Webber reckons is one of his most successful settings.

"*Cats*, I hope, has the strongest melodic score I've yet written. If that turns out to be true then a lot of the thanks must go to T. S. Eliot, whose words and rhythms very often dictate the music. And to Trevor as well. He has the most remarkable understanding of the music of language and has helped in the constant refinement of the settings. Did you know, by the way, that Stephen Sondheim is a great Eliot fan?"

"We've even dared to open with a fugue. I think too that *Cats* offers more opportunities than any earlier musicals. Composing for the dance started to interest me in *Evita* and there's a lot more to it in *Cats*. Cats are athletic creatures, so there has to be dance, but they must

never be fey. One of my first tasks was to convince Valerie Eliot that we were not concerned with pussycats—Walt Disney once wanted to film *Old Possum*—and he was turned down. What I want are earthy creatures, who are almost human."

During the composition of *Cats* Lloyd Webber tried to forget about other people's alluring music—Prokofiev's for instance, although there is a quote from Rossini's famous duet. Did he come to any view of the feline race?

"I still feel totally neutral about them. We've always had cats in the family, but the only one I particularly liked was an old Siamese who had a passion for Tchaikovsky. The waltz from *Casse Noisette* was his favourite. But then he always was a very sentimental creature."

John Higgins

Book review

The English

The Countryside and its people

By Michael Watkins

(Elm Tree Books, 1995)

The English, the English, the English are best, sang Flanders and Swann, adding that they wouldn't give rumpence for all of the rest. Michael Watkins, world traveller and author, feels something of the same emotion. He travelled through England (not Scotland, not Wales) over the course of a year, starting in January in the snow to see if we, the English, still existed.

He limited himself to the countryside of England and, through talking to people he felt represented that countryside, he has drawn from them the stories of their lives and their villages which make up a mosaic picture, admirably well put together by Peter Pugh-Cook's beautiful photographs.

For the purposes of the book, you have to accept his theory that urban man and suburban man don't count—not having put down the necessary roots into the land and society. Michael Watkins quotes the story of a village ancient being interviewed:

"You must have seen a lot of changes in ninety-six years?" he was asked. "Yes, the village has changed, and I've opposed every one."

It is hard not to think that the author would agree with the old man. He begins with a chapter called 'The Yarnon', the village of Dillwyn in Herefordshire. There we meet Mrs Bray at the big house, freezing cold in 14 degrees of frost, one small coal fire and an ancient convector heater in the drawing room, reminiscences covering 70 years. The same names recur in village history—Bray, Lewis, Moore, Bevan, Lane, Griffiths, Bradshaw. The Lewis family all live in the same house they have inhabited for 300 years, in the past three generations breeding prize Herefords. Leslie Lewis, now in charge of the farm, runs it with a walking stick, crippled by polio in 1949. A sad family story is revealed.

There are the Shepherds, the Lifeboar, Coxwell, the Publican, Coalbrook, Sheepkeeper, Parsons, Gardner, Landonner, the Meals on Wheels Helper in the list of 15 leading characters. The Landowner, the Marquess of Tavistock, with his reluctant Lady, heir to Woburn Abbey and all that. The Meals on Wheels helper is a delightful young woman in



A corner of Broadway: one of Peter Pugh-Cook's 160 photographs in *The English*

Penzance, the Cornwall of "Give a gnome a home" married but divorced, an organizer of hot meals for the elderly, and disabled, ranging from daffodil, living in the middle of six transistor radios, to Mrs Grosvenor-Smith, ill, elderly, living in a rumbledown house with no money to repair it, but still beautiful.

Michael Watkins manages to draw astonishingly candid stories from them and is equally at home with the simple Daff Willie and the landowner, sympathetic, but not sentimental, viewing the village pond is company with the infant class at Flagg, a tiny spot in the Derbyshire Peaks.

His England is touched with decay, collapsing, the young people leaving the schools, closing, council estates cut off from village life, peopled by strong-willed eccentrics—or do they seem eccentric merely because they are English? Many of them are old and have lost their marriage partner. The hard past is remembered without bitterness, but there is not a great deal of hope, or relief, for what the future will be. As the Country Journalist, Bob Shepherd from Pressall in Lancashire says: "We're like quins dancing in the sunshine, oblivious of the storm clouds building up."

Philippa Toomey

Julius Caesar
Coliseum

Stanley Sadie

The first thing to celebrate about the CNO Julius Caesar revived on Saturday is its sheer professionalism. Handel devotees have long had to content themselves with the valiant shoeing efforts of enthusiasts; this show, with its smart, costly settings, its skilful and pointed staging, its assured, properly rehearsed orchestra and its assemblage of splendid voices, must be both the despair of those enthusiasts and their justification for if it goes far beyond what they have managed it also demonstrates that their endeavours were warranted, and that the protestations about the dramatic force of Handel's music were not just special pleading.

John Copley's production is an attractive one, visually arresting, worthy of the grandeur of its subject. It is also a little diverse and unfocused: the designers (John Pastore) for the sets, Michael Stennett for the costumes) have gone for brilliance and variety and strong effects and their success is sometimes at unit's expense. The costumes especially prefer too many styles and periods: I am thinking less of the

The Taming of the
Shrew

Sadler's Wells

Judith Crickshank

I cannot imagine that John Cranko's version of *The Taming of the Shrew* will ever be one of my favourite ballets. The score, Kurt Hiller, Sadie's adaptation of Shalun, is thin and fidgety, the choreography inclines to complication for its own sake and I find the "male superior" account of the plot quite insufferable.

Friday's performance by the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet came near to making me change my mind. A guest conductor from Stuttgart, Friedrich Lehmann, led the orchestra along at a spanking pace and the result, while not exactly great music, was at least catchy and cheerful. The dancers have entered the skin of the ballet and the choreography now serves as a framework for their own interpretations of the characters.

Margaret Barberi may not seem the obvious choice for the Shrew and there are people who try to classify her as primarily a romantic ballerina. They forget the enormous variety of roles she has already tackled, and that behind the lovely face, there is a fine Italian temperament. Not since Marcia Hayde, the role's creator, have I seen such a

Egyptians, Ptolemy, his camp followers and his soldiers though their baggy trousers and Wardour Street leather tend to exaggerate their absurdity, than of the over-wide range allowed for the ladies' dresses. The sets have been modified somewhat since the production was first given, at the end of 1979; the metal-screen Mediterranean map, for example, is fortunately abandoned.

On the musical side, too, the tendency to make as much as possible of the work, or for preference just a little more than that, is apparent. Thus Charles Mackerras, whose energetic rhythms, airy phrasing and light attack do much towards giving dramatic life to the long evening and to providing as sound a stylistic base as possible in a large house, is also inclined to exaggerate the tempos; slow arias are made slower still, to extract the maximum emotion, and fast ones faster, for maximum vigour.

The cast is exactly as before, but generally more confident. Even Janet Baker, whose Caesar properly dominates the evening, has added to what was already a superb performance, chiefly by substituting it in a number of ways, mostly in pointed details of timing in her acting but also with singing

gusty Katherine, or one who swung such a mean fist. Barberi's Kate, like Hayde, is never really down-trodden or abused, it is just that things do not always go the way she planned; there are temporary setbacks such as being cheated out of her supper, or having to spend the night on the floor, but she never doubts for a moment that she will win in the end. The complications of the choreography seem to hold no terrors for her, even the Bolshoi-style pas de deux, in which she was ably partnered by David Asmole.

He is a more sensitive Petruchio than most, but also one of the funniest. And while the choreography does not really suit his style, he copes with it well and there are some thrilling moments. Saturday afternoon's cast was led by Siobhan Stanley and Carl Myers. This is her first full-length leading role and she tackles it very well, giving it both humour and individuality. Myers is a cheerfully charming hero, but with his ability he could make more impression in his solos.

Among the other roles, all well played, David Bintlley's Gremio is outstanding, certainly the funniest either Royal Ballet company has ever shown and a completely original interpretation too. Christine Aiken makes Bianca the kind of girl who not only wants to keep and eat her own cake, but also the icing on everyone else's.

The Crucible

BBC 1

Michael Church

If *The Crucible* were to be written now, what sort of notices would we have? Good ones, no doubt, but not exactly raves. Critics would approve its themes but their praise might well be tinged with a note of condescension. "Well made, a clever plot with vivid characters," they would say, as though Miller had ducked out technical challenges and relied on mere traditional craftsmanship. Then they would point to the latest offerings of the Cottesloe or the Royal Court, where committed writers are regularly hired to break new ground, and they might find Mr Miller wanting. If it were to make its debut on television, the broadcasting avant garde would be disparagingly label it "naturalistic," a stonky, quickly turned back to the latest electronic essay on race, sex, class, Ireland, South Africa or the CIA.

Miller has hitherto never allowed *The Crucible* to be televised, rightly fearing its facial diminution in the streamlining process, through which even the best directors cut classics. Louis Marks and Don Taylor have amply repaid his trust, and when he views the fruits of their labours he should be well pleased. Their production, which straddled the news last night, was simply magnificent, and relied on mere traditional craftsmanship. Then they would point to the latest offerings of the Cottesloe or the Royal Court, where committed writers are regularly hired to break new ground, and they might find Mr Miller wanting. If it were to make its debut on television, the broadcasting avant garde would be disparagingly label it "naturalistic," a stonky, quickly turned back to the latest electronic essay on race, sex, class, Ireland, South Africa or the CIA.

But what faces, as terror, suspicion, rage, frustration, vindictiveness and simple nobility were laid bare. And what voices, as the anxious community broke into its individual embodiments of terrified hate. Michael Harbour and Lynn Dearth held the centre with heart-warming conviction as John and Elizabeth Proctor. Sarah Berger, the cold, contemptuous face of the cameras loathed (ie loved) brought to the part of Abigail, and thus to Proctor, that giddy sense of adolescent sexual power which is one of the play's deeper themes. Daniel Massey played John Hale, a role muddled in most productions, and subtly brought out its true significance as weakly pharisaical arrogance gives way to a more modern and agnostic view of human frailty.

The play's message, of course, is sickeningly obvious, and by right-wing witch hunt, it would not put us in mind of left-wing ones, but its big technical challenge, both to performers and audience, is to demand belief in a world presided over by a grimly efficient Day of Judgment. It is a tribute to every member of this splendid cast that this challenge was successfully met.

more characterful and more suggestive. There is not a note faked or fudged, everything clean and truly attacked, the tone unfailingly full and rich, the passage-work impeccable.

But she, like all the singers, was given too many hurdles to jump. Her singing was of course right to ornament the music; but she does no one a service—his singers least of all—by indulging in so much radical rewriting. This often amounts to recomposition; the effect is one of gross distortion, not in the slightest ornamental, and embarrassingly clumsy in the way it sends singers into parts of their compass they rarely frequent.

Valerie Masterson as Cleopatra sometimes suffered this. Her singing was often brilliant, but also very strange, and repeatedly troubled by intonation difficulties, yet it always had fire and charm. Sarah Walker, if over-romantic in her opening aria, sang Cornelia with much refinement and distinction. Sextus was vigorously sung (in spite of illness) by Della Jones. John Tomlinson made a sterling Achilles, and John Angelo Messina gave a sharp impression of the Greek hero. Ptolemy even if his counter-tenor lacks the solidity needed for this size house.

New trilogy at the
National Theatre

A trilogy of short plays by Dario Fo and his actress wife Franca Rame will receive its British premiere at the National Theatre on June 17, with Yvonne Bryceland as the solo performer. *One Woman Plays*, in an English version by Olwen Wymore, will be directed by Michael Bogdanov. Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* is still running in the West End.

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Commercial Property

St Paul's to look out on more changing shapes

More changes are planned in the St. Paul's area, where the Corporation of the City of London is now in the final stages of negotiation with Norwich Union Insurance for a £10m redevelopment at the corner of Ludgate Hill and Old Bailey. Planning permission has been granted for the site, previously occupied by a clothing store and a public house.

The fronts of the public house and No 6 Old Bailey are to be retained and a six-storey, air-conditioned office building with six shops at street level built on the remainder of the site. Altogether, office space will total about 57,500 sq ft.

Architects for the development, which will be known as No 1 Old Bailey, are T. P. Bennett and Son. Part of the old city wall lies within the site and it is hoped to uncover and

incorporate it in a terrace for the public house. Care is being taken to ensure that the view up Ludgate Hill towards St Paul's will not be affected by the development, which will have a natural Portland stone facing and a mansard roof. Building is expected to begin towards the end of the year, with completion in about two years. Letting agents are Baker Harris Saunders and Wright Oliphant.

In Manchester the British Rail Property Board has submitted a planning application for the redevelopment of the former Old Swan Hotel and adjoining properties on Long Millgate and Victoria Station Approach.

The site, of about half an acre, is partly owned by the City of Manchester. The BRB is seeking a developer for the scheme, which will combine residential and commercial use within the cathedral conservation area.

Raglan Property Trust has been selected by Newport Borough Council to develop a shopping scheme on a council site within the main shopping area at Upper Dock Street in Newport, Gwent. Raglan's plan provides for 21,000 sq ft of retail space, comprising a 13,500 sq ft store and several smaller shops.

The store will have entrances from Austin Friars and the main bus station. The smaller units will be located along Dock Street and at the bus station entrance.



Artist's impression of the proposed new building on the corner of Ludgate Hill and Old Bailey, London.

The development, expected to cost about £1.5m, will start this autumn. Architects are John Brunton and Partners, of Bradford; letting will be through

Harnell Taylor Cook, of Bristol. Good progress is being made in St Albans, Hertfordshire, where Bredero Consulting have been nominated as development

partners with St Albans City Council for a shopping scheme in Chequer Street. Planning consent has been granted, based on proposals originally submitted by Bredero and it is hoped building will start early this summer. Architects are the Renton Howard Wood Levin Partnership, and the plans provide for a department store with 100,000 sq ft of retail space, a 35,000 sq ft supermarket and 45 single shops. A multi-storey park will hold 650 cars.

Particular attention is being given to the architectural treatment of the historic buildings on the site. Wright and Partners, of London, are development consultants and letting agents.

An unusual scheme is planned for Richmond, Surrey, where Speyhawk Land and Estates have emerged as successful bidders, at around £2.5m, for the former Post Office and sorting-office site between George Street and Richmond Green.

Planning permission already exists, but Manning Clamp and Partners, architects for Speyhawk, are to lodge an application for a revised layout. Buildings on George Street will be renovated to provide new shopping space on ground, mezzanine and first floors amounting to about 8,100 sq ft, likely to be offered in one or two units. The frontage to Richmond Green is a terrace of Georgian buildings listed grade two — of special architectural

or historic interest. These are to be refurbished and extended into a landscaped courtyard to provide about 14,000 sq ft of air-conditioned office, plus several residential units.

The King and Co acted for the PO. Strutt and Parker, who acted for Speyhawk in the sale, have arranged funding with Fleming Property Unit Trust and are letting agents for the scheme. Work on the scheme, which has an estimated total capital value of £5.5m, including site purchase, is to start next month.

In Derbyshire, Dimsdale Developments (South East) in conjunction with Crowle Properties, a wholly owned subsidiary of Associated Newspapers, is to carry out a refurbishment of the former Derby Evening Telegraph headquarters on the corner of Albert Street and Exchange Street, Derby. The building became surplus to the requirements of the Associated-owned newspaper when it moved to a new building near by. About 17,700 sq ft, made up of 7,500 sq ft of shops and 10,200 sq ft of offices on the upper floors, will be provided. Work is due to start this month for completion in next January.

The scheme will have an estimated investment value of £750,000 and architects are Archer Boxer Partners; joint letting agents Moul and Benn and Frank Innes.

In Newbury, Berkshire, Maybrook Properties have begun a new mixed development in Bartholomew Street, which is due for completion next January.

The scheme, designed by T. P. Bennett and Son, will provide a 23,000 sq ft retail store, 11,000 sq ft of offices on two upper floors and 140 ground-level parking spaces. The store has been pre-let to B & Q (Retail), at about £90,000 a year. The offices will be available for letting on completion. Maybrook Properties were represented by Hillier Parker May and Bowden and Day Shergold and Herbert, who are retained as joint letting agents for the offices. Buckle and Ballard acted for B & Q (Retail).

Hunting Gate Group has concluded an arrangement with Barclays Bank and Barclays Merchant Bank under which facilities totalling £4.5m will be made available for the group's commercial and industrial developments and property investment programme, in addition to the present £700,000 Barclays arrangement.

And that, readers, is that. This is my final article before retirement. It ends a period of 29 years on The Times and 26 years dealing with property matters in its pages. My very best wishes to you all, and as for me — I have had a lot of fun.

Gerald Ely

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Robson must return from the dead

run with no brakes

By John Nicholls

Coverity & Manchester United
Dresses Coverity & Manchester United in the form they showed earlier in the season, they will soon be revealed as the most serious concern for relaxation more than they are now. The past few weeks has seen the slide steadily down the league and the team's performance has given little indication that the slide can be halted. Manchester United are certainly not the only team who were able to look quick, impressive and two goals by Jordan made a mark on the day.

It was not as if Coverity did not make any chances of the own—they did—but were unable to make them count. The few words were quality of just about every falling in the soccer manner but when they clearly lacked any of all was confidence. There were several occasions when a first-time shot might have caught Bailey's eye but the players' concern would hesitate or attempt to shift the responsibility of scoring to coverity and the chance was gone.

Thomas was an honourable exception to the despairing armchair criticism of his players and Bannister also never stopped

[illegible]

which had slipped through the hands of the Oxford goalkeeper, Burton.

Five minutes earlier Oxford striker, Cassells, burst through with a 40-yard run, and brought a superb one-handed save from the goalkeeper. Oxford's first home defence allowed Foley to snap up the rebound, and put it aside again.

After two low-fell backs, Foley and Doyle, were booked, and were Bamber and Morgan, Blackpool. As an experiment, at Southampton, they played a second half with almost a record low score of 3,188.

Manfield Town survived an out assault by Torquay United at the end of their first half in the 18th minute. A corner threatened but was straight.

Burrows who scored twice with his hands.

Torquay levelled in the 37th minute when Fell scored with a penalty given for a foul.

Morgan on Cooper.

Rochdale led in the game on the hands late in the game.

struggling Port Vale. Only some full-blooded defensive work kept them out of a point in a game where they looked like winning for most of the time.

Yesterday

Third division

Blackpool (1) 1 Oxford and York 0
 Bamber 5.30

Fourth division

Stockport (1) 2 Port Vale 0
 5.30
 Chester 2.00
 5.30
 Exeter 2.00
 5.30
 Forest (2) 1 Mansfield 0
 5.30
 Farnham 1.00

ALLIANCE PURSUIT

Blackpool (1) 1 Oxford and York 0
 5.30
 Bamber 5.30
 Chester 2.00
 5.30
 Exeter 2.00
 5.30
 Forest (2) 1 Mansfield 0
 5.30
 Farnham 1.00

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Echoes of America's long hot summers

When I walked through the streets of Brixton yesterday morning I was instantly reminded of similar mornings after in the United States. The burned-out and looted shops, the piles of broken glass, the watchful police and the careful black youngsters, who might well have done the burning and the looting, especially reminded me of the 1968 riots in Washington.

The looted shops had sold clothing and jewelry. Food shops had been ignored. There was no remorse; instead, well rehearsed complaints of oppression and the occasional flexing of racial muscle with the implicit promise of more violence to come. One handsome and well-dressed woman only regretted that she had been home minding the children and not burning and looting.

Black families in their Sunday best coming from church with palm fronds in gloved hands were another reminder. Brixton's West Indian community is not large, and the majority are law-abiding citizens who want to get on and do well by their children.

There were other reminders, but Brixton was not Washington's black ghetto. That night when it and other ghettos exploded after the murder of Dr Martin Luther King Jr the death toll was 39 and nearly 20,000 rioters and looters were arrested. No one was killed on Saturday night and fewer than 120 arrests were made.

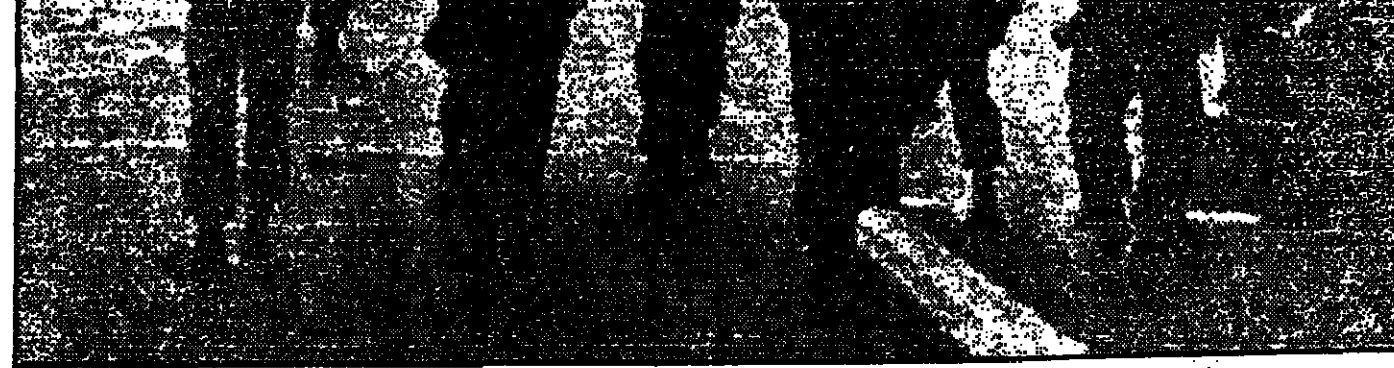
The police were unarmed and

the troops had not been called out. The whites had not fled. Nevertheless, the authorities must be wondering if Britain is to have a long hot summer, as the season for racial violence was known in the United States. They must also be asking what the causes of violence and how it can be prevented.

Despite the obvious differences in national character and experience, the final report of the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, published in Washington in December 1969, is a useful reference. For instance:

"America has always been a nation of rapid social change. We have proclaimed ourselves a modern promised land, and have brought millions of restless immigrants to our shores to partake in its fulfilment. Persistent demands by these groups — by the western farmers of the revolutionary period, later by the Irish, the Italians and the Slavs, and more recently by Puerto Rican, Mexican and Negro Americans — and resistance to these demands by other groups, have accounted for most of the offensive and defensive group violence that marks our history."

Commonwealth immigrants to Britain also saw the island as a modern promised land, perhaps more promising than nineteenth-century America because of the welfare state. By the standards of their countries of origin, the immigrants' own expectations of immigrants, most have done modestly well. Poor housing and long hours



Troops in gas masks patrol a Negro area of Washington after the 1968 riots.

in sweatshops blight the lives of some of the immigrant who landed at Heathrow was generally better treated than the American black from Mississippi who got off the Greyhound bus in New York or Chicago. Our immigrants were respected by the tiny minority of Fascists and assorted fascists, but we have avoided much of America's group violence.

Not entirely of course. Brixton is a brutal reminder of the violence which invariably attends immigration, and West Indians, who appear to have done less well than those from the Indian sub-continent, have been more prone to violence.

The American report continues: "To be a young, poor male; to be under-educated; to be black; to be in a typical working-class neighbourhood no worse than some and better than others."

oneself illegitimate and often violent methods being used to achieve material gain; and to observe others using these means with impunity—all this is to be burdened with an enormous set of influences that pull many towards crime and delinquency. To be also a Negro, Puerto Rican or Mexican-American and subject to discrimination and segregation add considerably to the pull of these other criminogenic forces."

That paragraph sums up the conditions of many young blacks in Brixton, especially during this period of high unemployment, although by realistic standards it is not an unduly oppressive urban environment. Some of the back areas are a mess and rundown, but it is a typical working-class neighbourhood no worse than some and better than others.

That said, the schools are in-

different, and young blacks see around them "illegitimate and often violent methods being used to achieve material gain". The street culture corrupts many of them and deters others from seeking escape by way of school, the public library and by hard work when jobs are available.

What to do? The American report warned against dependence on police and other control measures. "The way in which we can make the greatest progress towards reducing violence in America is by making the actions necessary to improve the conditions of family and community life for all who live in our cities, and especially for the poor concentrated in the ghetto slums."

Financial restraints will prevent any dramatic improvement, and arguably big spending programmes will not persuade that well-dressed

woman I met in Brixton that she is not oppressed. Her husband is an electrician who brings home about £80 a week, and she is entitled to children's allowances. She expressed herself content with the new council flat in which she lives, but she still wants to burn and loot.

No doubt she is one of a small minority, but not many spoken people are required to convince black and white alike that conditions in Brixton are much worse than they actually are. They also appear determined to deepen the division between the races.

The young West Indian, Stokely Carmichael, tried to do that in Washington. He was successful for a time, but the so-called long hot summers came to an end partly because many wrongs were righted but mainly because the law-abiding black majority asserted itself.

Louis Heren

leaps to a new approach

However short they may be on detailed policies, the Social Democrats are rapidly amassing an impressive corpus of more general political theory. Hard on the heels of Dr David Owen's massive book *Face the Future* comes a rather slim volume from Mrs Shirley Williams, *Politics is for People*, which is published today.

Mrs Williams was able to see the proofs of *Face the Future* before completing her own manuscript in January. As a result, she has avoided detailed treatment of areas, such as industrial co-operatives already covered at length by Dr Owen. Predictably, she concentrates more on education, new technology and employment, and less on overall economic and industrial policy, and foreign affairs.

The central argument of the two books is essentially the same. Like Dr Owen, Mrs Williams finds much to commend in the "small is beautiful" approach and much wrong with our present over-centralised corporate society and economy. She calls for more community and voluntary involvement in social services, more open government and reform of Parliament (although not, surprisingly, proportional representation). She remains an agnostic as to whether the West is heading for a new world order, and reaffirms her well-known commitment to internationalism, the Third World and the European Economic Community.

Her book begins with an assessment of the considerable economic, political and social achievements of the social democratic consensus which has ruled Britain and most of Western Europe since the war. But the modern post-industrial economy is very different from nineteenth-century industrialism. A traditional socialism steeped in old industrial attitudes and based on the class war has become obsolete.

"Socialism", she writes, "was a response to the particular kind of structure created by the Industrial Revolution. But the modern post-industrial economy is very different from nineteenth-century industrialism. A traditional socialism steeped in old industrial attitudes and based on the class war has become obsolete."

Still in the key of Keynes

Mrs Williams offers an interesting definition of social democracy: a commitment to limit the power of capitalism rather than revolution to bring about socialism. "There are two strands of socialism at present: muddled up", she says, "both have a commitment to equality and public ownership. The revolutionary tradition for the most part is the problem of the unchangeability of the power that it throws up. I don't think Tony Blair and his cohorts have faced up to this. I now feel that the only way forward is a pluralistic economy."

Although she calls for a "quantum jump" in political thinking, her goals remain the conventional ones of Keynesianism. She is firmly committed to the principles of a modern standard of economic growth and of full employment in the formal economy. It is her remarks on securing full employment that will probably strike most readers as the most original and stimulating part of her book. She argues that it can be achieved partially through a massive expansion of training facilities and opportunities for both adults and school-leavers, an extension of job creation schemes, and major changes in taxation policy so that labour is not penalised.

Ultimately, however, she believes that unemployment can only be combated by a radical change of attitude on the part of manufacturers, designers and economists to the two factors of labour and capital. "The West has operated on the principle that you improve matters by substituting capital for labour, wherever possible", she says.

"I think we will have to alter the whole approach."

She feels that the high and increasing costs of energy will encourage the redesign of manufacturing processes to give a greater input of labour. She would also like to see the extension of what is known as "human asset accounting" and has persuaded the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to undertake a major study of how far the West could be made more labour and less capital intensive.

In keeping with the overall decentralist theme, Mrs Williams calls for specific measures to help small firms. She would like to see the introduction of a loan guarantee scheme, local enterprise industrial policy, and more flexible tax arrangements for small businesses. In that way she hopes that enterprises which are now operating in the so-called "black economy" could be legitimized.

Her chapter on trade unions concentrates almost wholly on the need for an incomes policy coupled with industrial democracy. She says nothing about legal curbs on trade union power, largely because she feels that, without industrial democracy, they are irrelevant and misconceived.

Views unchanged on public schools

Her own view is, in fact, that on the closed shop the conscience clause should be submitted to cover almost every one who does not want to join a union. However, those who do not join should be required to pay the equivalent of their union dues to a charity approved by the union. In that way, she says, people would not gain financially by not being members of a union.

She also says that she would not be against making contracts between unions and employers legally binding, although, once again, she feels industrial democracy is more important. She says, "you cannot make a contract legally binding unless you have a process of consultation. With the present structure, it would be impossible to have general secretaries unseated."

In her chapter on education, Mrs Williams repeats her well-known conviction, not shared by other members of the "gang of four" that public schools should be abolished. She writes: "It is with reluctance that I for one conclude that the freedom to send one's children to an independent school is bought at too high a price for the rest of society."

She also argues that the British educational system is bedevilled by the divide between vocational and academic training and that they should be brought closer together. She would like to see universities developed as resource centres for their local communities with funds built up to finance summer schools and adult education classes.

Despite the decentralist and libertarian rhetoric, Mrs Williams' proposals still involve a fair amount of government intervention. She feels, however, that it could be achieved in a much less direct and heavy-handed way than hitherto.

"I think government ought to set a broad framework and then let people operate freely within it. On industrial democracy, for example, it should require firms and unions to negotiate in good faith, and which conform with broad government guidelines."

"We are much too gossamer at the moment. I don't think it's the business of the state to say that every woman should have her baby in hospital, although it can point out the dangers of home births. I think the state should set minimum standards, supported by subsidy. Beyond that it should be up to communities to provide more, using local income tax to do so."

Ian Bradley

Politics is for People. Allen Lane (hardback) £8.50, Penguin (paperback) £2.50.

Shuttling to laser beams in space

One of the least discussed aspects of the maiden flight of the reusable space shuttle launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, is the change it brings to the military balance of power between the United States and Russia. Yet the project is a joint enterprise between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the American Department of Defense.

Moreover, the design of the spacecraft has been influenced strongly by the United States Air Force. The vehicle launched yesterday, Orbiter OV-102 *Columbia* to give it its full name and serial number—is only the first of a fleet of such space ships under construction. The next two members of the family will be the reusable transporters, Orbits OV-103 and OV-104, which will carry out flights for military purposes from the Air Force base at Cape Vandenberg, in California.

The uses for defence purposes include placing and retrieving large numbers of satellites, and can be launched by the present generation of expend-

able rockets; installing space platforms with laser weapons as part of an anti-satellite project; the construction of huge lattice beam space elevators, carrying early warning radar and infra-red equipment; and the launch of payloads, such as communications and navigation satellites, into the geosynchronous orbit more than 22,000 miles above the earth.

The US Defence Department plans to replace the existing series of Big Bird spy satellites, which weigh about 11 tons, by a larger variety weighing nearly 15 tons that, more importantly, can be returned intact to the ground and reused. The Big Bird satellites are launched from the West coast into a polar orbit so that they pass over the Soviet and Asian land mass.

There is a penalty for launching in a polar orbit. It is reflected in the extra fuel needed by the spacecraft at the expense of the payload. A shuttle Orbiter launched from Cape Canaveral can carry a cargo of 22,000 lbs into orbit, but the cabin with the capacity of a box trailer 60ft long and 15ft wide:

hence the name the shuttle has earned of being a space truck.

A shuttle launch can be organized more rapidly than flights with the conventional rockets because an Orbiter is designed to be overhauled and ready for a new mission within two to three weeks. That ability opens a new dimension for the armed services in how to conduct surveillance of Soviet missile installations and nuclear submarines. The most important military spaceborne activities are observing Soviet and Chinese weaponry by satellite; establishing strategic and tactical communications; verifying the frequencies of transmissions agreed under SALT 1; and the development of methods of protecting satellites from attack.

In fact more than £50m is spent each year on methods to help spacecraft survive damage by developing greater manoeuvrability, resistance to jamming, and shutters that automatically cover sensitive camera lenses and infra-red detectors in an attack by a laser beam. With the prospect of repairing satellites in orbit, or

returning them to the factory for maintenance, the life of spacecraft should be considerably extended.

But the risks from killer satellites have been reinforced by the two recent Russian tests in which a target spacecraft was damaged by a satellite carrying an explosive charge. On detonation, the shrapnel from the disintegrating killer satellite penetrated the target spacecraft, beginning to look like the letter of the Outer Space Treaty signed by the United States and Russia and 72 others, which declared outer space as a zone of peace.

That notion began as an illusion because it was conceived after the first satellites for military communications and reconnaissance were already circling the earth. Clearly there was a tacit acceptance in SALT 1 that the spirit of the space treaty had been breached when, as a means of monitoring the other side's compliance with arms control, the practice of verification by satellite was written into agreements.

Work on anti-satellite weapons by the Russians started in 1967. The Americans had a brief flirtation with this type of vehicle but after two experiments in orbit the project was dropped along with other plans for the Defence Department's Manned Orbiting Laboratory which would have established a platform for reconnaissance work. That space station was intended to have a two-man crew, on five missions of up to 30 days each, testing the advantages of military surveillance with men operating the monitoring equipment.

Recent Russian successes in establishing new records for men operating in space in a Salyut space station have established that idea. With hindsight, it is easy to see a well-defined plan by the Soviet Union for a much longer-term space strategy than the American political hiccups.

The command of earth orbit has clearly always been a Russian goal, and the logical progression, through the first six Vostok and the two Voskhod manned spacecraft to try the

foundation for the long series of Soyuz and Salyut missions is obvious now. A permanent orbital Soviet station in the 22,000lb class is expected to be under development for launch in about three years' time, to be manned by up to 12 cosmonauts. A Russian equivalent of the reusable shuttle is expected in seven to eight years' time.

But by that time the American Orbiter should have enabled the United States Defence Department to have redesigned much of their vital networks that are spread between USAF DSCS-3 (the designation for the third generation of military communications satellites), FleetSatCom and AFSatCom (special links to naval vessels and aircraft) and a host of far more complicated spacecraft for detecting the heat plumes from ICBMs or low-flying aircraft like the Soviet Backfire supersonic bomber, which could come in beneath the radar sweep.

Pearce Wright
Science Correspondent

The week that was—or wasn't?

Paul Routledge assesses the latest TUC campaign against Government economic policy

It is just as well that Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, does not gauge the impact of the unions' "week of activity" by the column inches it rates in the popular press. By contrast with the obsessive interest in the May 14 Day of Action last year, the past seven days of rallies, marches, lobbies and conferences have been practically ignored.

The TUC judges the success of its campaigning by Congress House criteria, and by that test it was a resounding success. The labour movement's "alternative strategy" of boosting the economy through public expenditure is more widely disseminated and understood, and the anti-monetarist analysis is gaining a firmer hold. In their own jargon, the TUC mandarins insist they are "winning the argument."

But are they? Not even ministers considered to be receptive to their ideas such as Mr James Prior, the Employment Secretary, concede any such thing. And in any case, winning intellectual battles is no guarantee that an obstinate government will then feel obliged to change course.

The lesson of the miners'

strikes that halted ministerial plans to close 23 pits at a cost of more than 13,000 jobs is surely that Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet only retreats when faced with a combatant who has real roots in business. Speeches and rallies may be fine and uplifting, the stuff of which the labour movement is made. But they can be safely ignored by a government determined to stick to its guns. What is more, from the trade union point of view, the very fullness of such gestures may actually undermine the already diminished credibility of the TUC.

At the rally in London last week, Mr Dennis Skinner, MP (who is sponsored by the miners' union, it should be remembered), castigated the TUC for holding back the troops. And Mr Bill Keys, the printers' union argued that the union movement had acquiesced in government policies since the Tories took office, a posture from which they were only now beginning to emerge.

Some unions, of course, have

been less acquiescent than others. The steelmen fought a valiant struggle over pay, only to lose over plant closures. The miners have consistently floated public sector pay policy and have now notched a considerable victory on the wider front of subsidies for their industry. The civil servants are locked in a very deep combat with the Cabinet over pay, and workers in the monopoly service industries—gas, water and electricity—have all pushed through the single-figure pay barrier.

But they have been the exceptions rather than the rule. Days ago, when the strike rumbled dramatically as the recession took its toll across industry and cuts in Government spending were reflected in job losses—the loss, for instance, of 10,000 bookbinders

jobs through the collapse in school book ordering. Against this background, the TUC, kept out of the corridors of power and incapable of delivering militancy on the shopfloor, begins to look altogether less relevant. That was the analysis behind the formation of the Triple Alliance of railwaymen, miners and steelworkers. Whatever the quality of its policy paperwork, the TUC's showing in terms of results is far from impressive.

That analysis must also to some degree explain the relative greater enthusiasm for the "narrow-angle" People's March for Jobs being held next month. Starting from Liverpool on May Day, a column of at least 500 unemployed workers will wind its way to London, arriving for a huge demonstration on May 29. The Transport

and General Workers' Union nationally is committed to spend £25,000 on "the biggest single campaign to awaken the nation's conscience about mass unemployment, springing from grass roots trade union demands for action". The operation is expected to cost about £80,000.

The whole front page of the April *TGWU Record*, the union's widely circulated journal, is given over to publicising the march and detailing its support. But the TUC week of activity was relegated to a few inches on the back page which covered only the textiles and transport lobbies.

Although it has clearly captured wide attention and support, the People's March does not have the personal endorsement of Mr Len Murray. Three Northern, Midlands and South-east, are organizing, and some of the main figures are Mr Jack Dromey in London and construction workers' official Mr Peter Carter in Birmingham, are men of the hard-nosed left.

Mr Murray prefers to keep

his distance from the march, arguing that it is a regional matter and that if the Congress House machine became involved, it would have to take over the whole thing completely. In fact, the TUC general secretary is likely to be away when the marchers arrive.

So there is evidently something of a gap between the "officials" in Great Russell Street and the political activists in the movement who will certainly seek to turn the People's March into a broad attack on the Government in the hope of making it a springboard for a more self-confident militancy in the unions. This was the unrealized hope of the left in the wake of the 1980 Day of Action.

At the winding-up rally of the week of activity in Bradford on Saturday, Mr Murray said the Prime Minister was presenting a resolute exterior to the public but away from the public eye "are millions of people of uncertainty, must be nudging and nagging him. She ignores them at the nation's peril." With so much effort going into the People's March, there may be some goblins of uncertainty nagging the TUC general secretary.

In a Manhattan garden, a sharp dose of spring

Nothing happens gradually in New York. It is a sudden city. Seasons do not blend into each other as they do in more temperate Europe, the end of winter blurring imperceptibly with the beginning of spring. Instead, spring comes up on you as a swift, sharp shock, like a mugger on the Eight Avenue subway.

This year it came in the last weekend of March. A week earlier we had been bundled in our winter woollens, wearing off temperatures below freezing point. Then the winds switched to come up from the South and the mercury climbed to more than 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

As it happened, that was the weekend when, in my official capacity as vice-president of the garden club on Roosevelt Island—that Manhattan off-shore island where I live—I had to accompany the president on her annual tool-buying pilgrimage. We drove in her Toyota to a hardware store to pick up the spades, forks, rakes and hoes that we provide for

the communal use of island gardeners.

The shop was not accustomed to mass purchases of that kind. We bought eight spades, eight forks and a couple of rakes and hoes. "Do you work on a farm?" asked the girl at the checkout, as the pair of us, assisted by the president's small son, staggered there in relays with the loot. Two hundred dollars quickly changed hands and the stuff was ours.

While the president went to fetch the car, however, I took the tools and stacked them on the pavement outside. Passers-by inspected the price tags and, assuming we were selling them there, tried to buy them from us.

"That looks a good deal," said a burly man with a moustache, feeling for his wallet. I directed him inside.

I have previously noted here the tendency of New Yorkers to run in packs, like Wolves or lemmings. With a fine Sunday immediately following the day of the purchase, gardeners swarmed to the shed to snap up

the tools and break ground for the season. Gardening here is strictly a spring-to-autumn sport.

The scene on the allotments, north of the baseball field and facing the Manhattan mainland, was like a Chinese paddy-field or a cotton plantation at harvest time. Dozens of toolers bent low over the earth, wielding their shiny new implements, worrying away at the soil.

Old acquaintances were renewed, some unseen since last October. I am not sure what they do in the winter; probably sit in their rocking chairs, poring over seed catalogues, until the appearance of the Hollywood Oscar ceremony on television tells them it is spring.

As I was forking in the annual load of peat, a woman called me to inspect her maggoty "Little white grub", she said, in alarmed and almost accusatory tones.

I walked over with grave authority, not wanting to



As I was forking in the annual load of peat, a woman called me to inspect her maggoty "Little white grub", she said, in alarmed and almost accusatory tones.

I walked over with grave authority, not wanting to

destroy her confidence in my skills at crisis management. Little white grubs are exactly what they were, scurrying below the surface. "Humm", I hummed, staring at the earth. "Soil-borne". That glimpse of the obvious did not seem to satisfy the plaintiff so I wandered on. "Some sort of weevil, perhaps. Could be a parasite, like onion fly. A carrot fly, possibly."

"What can I do?" was the next question.

"White powder from Woolworth's," I replied with brisk conviction. "It's an all-purpose insecticide. Just dust the soil with it." Then I walked away to consider a similar problem of my own.

I had not wanted to confess, but on my allotment I had something more alarming than maggots, white round blobs, the size of tiny ball-bearings, very like that pelleted styrofoam packing material you sometimes come across. A fungus, I guessed. Perhaps the magic white powder would handle that, too.

After preparing the ground

with peat, manure and fertilizer, I had initially intended to make only one planting that day—sugar peas, which like to get an early start. But it was such lovely weather and, though a bit dry, there was rain in the forecast, so I thought I would go ahead with a major implantation.

After the peas I put in some beetroot, then lettuce, then spring onions, then rocket, a highly-flavoured salad herb, then leeks. I found a clump of small onions which had somehow survived the winter so I separated those and planted them in the peat to see if they will develop.

More onions are starting life indoors, behind the living room window, along with some Brussels sprouts. With these I hope to astonish the natives, for sprouts are not often grown here.

Sure enough, the forecast rain fell on the Monday and the weather stayed warm, giving the seeds a nice start. By the following weekend, many were poking their heads above ground.

Meanwhile, I have started two kinds of tomatoes indoors. One variety is Early Girl, extraordinarily successful last year—plump and flavoursome fruits by July. The other is a later variety, Last from the garden, which will be ready to eat in August. The early ones will be sent outdoors not long after that.

We gardeners are a docile lot, partially compared with the militant special-interest groups on our island, but before the war began we did come as near as we ever got to an internal conflict. It was over a fence.

New Yorkers, for reasons which are apparent in their newspapers every day, worry a lot about security. The island has a prime rate by Manhattan standards but people do like vegetables in the summer. As I am told, some no doubt, of women with large shopping baskets walking across from the adjoining borough of Queens and helping themselves to the free and succulent vegetables and green peppers. A group of gardeners, understandably valuing their produce

and being defensive about their private space, thought they should have a high wall fence put all the way round the allotments. I disagreed for sentimental and practical, not to mention aesthetic reasons. Sentimentally, I did not like to think we had a problem. Vegetables gardening is so idyllic an undertaking that it is spoiled by considerations of thievery and turpitude. I would sooner not count my tomatoes.

Practically, I did not think the fence would work. It would simply be a challenge to the potential tomato-takers and it might also encourage random vandalism, in defiance of the authority the fence would represent.

An even less conceivable threat to fertility this year of the weather. Like much of America, New York has had an exceptionally dry winter and there is talk of restricting the use of water on gardens. In the end, this may prove a more real cause for worry than the light-fingered, heavy-laden ladies from Queens.

Michael Leapman



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THERE MUST BE AN INQUIRY

The ferocious violence to which the police were subjected in Brixton, on Saturday, and again yesterday (and which may not yet be over), cannot and should not be excused. No amount of sympathy which might be felt for the unfortunate social and economic circumstances of the rioters should blind one to the unprovoked and vicious nature of the attacks on the police. They were clearly intended to cause serious injury, and they did so. The burning of shops and buildings and the looting which inevitably followed the rioting were equally inexcusable, though at least they did not cause personal harm.

That said, however, the depressing fact is that what happened in Brixton, a year after the disturbances in St Paul's, Bristol, was predictable and predicted. The conditions that formed the background to the Brixton riots are present in Brixton, and in other areas of Britain. In both places, the perpetrators of the violence were largely black, and the victims were policemen. To that extent, they were not race riots. The objects of the hatred were blue, not white.

Relations between the police and the black communities of much of South London have been strained for many years. The operation of the sus laws, about to be abolished, and the more general complaints of police harassment have contributed to the almost complete breakdown of trust and respect for the police on the part of many London blacks. This may be unfair, but it is one of the facts that has to be faced and dealt with.

But it would be a grave mistake to regard Brixton, for all that, as simply a black-police confrontation. The problems and the solutions are much more complex and deep rooted. The conditions of deprivation, discrimination and violence have

been festering under governments of both parties. This accumulation of resentment and frustration is much more important than what the police may or may not have been alleged to have done on Friday or Saturday. The biggest social poison is undoubtedly unemployment and perhaps Brixton will end the myth that unemployment is being accepted in Britain without consequences. But there are other poisons which should give this Government particular concern. It can hardly be said that it has shown much concern for employment opportunities for young blacks or whites. In addition, it has put through Parliament a Nationality Bill which is regarded by the minority communities as being racist; it has failed to make its disapproval as sharp as it might of the neo-Nazi groups; and it has shown little interest in the perplexing problems of racial discrimination. Add to these perceptions a local council which provides insufficient housing and services, and often seems uncaring about the needs of the community, and it begins to be understood why Brixton, for many young Brixton blacks, seems to have turned against them. What we are confronted with is not a simply law-and-order problem—though order must be maintained—but with a political and social challenge. Policemen can only pick up the debris where politics have failed.

The Home Secretary should today announce that he intends to appoint an inquiry, to be held in public, with terms of reference wide enough to be able to absorb evidence on the underlying causes of the violence. Of course, the inquiry must investigate the events as well. Unless that is done, meticulously and impartially, myths will take hold which will form part of the verbal armoury of future rioters. It has been alleged by a number

of blacks that, before the violence, the police were present in the streets of Brixton in excessive numbers. Without suggesting that they had no right to be there, an independent inquiry could at least determine whether the police presence was insensitive in the circumstances. It could also pursue the allegations coming from the other side, that political agitators were at work, some of them from outside the area. All these issues, as well as the straightforward accumulation of factual information about the events of the day (or days), are appropriate for investigation by an inquiry.

But that would not be enough. To enable fundamental and more long-lasting lessons to be drawn from the Brixton experience, the inquiry would have to explore, in some depth, the complex social patterns of immigrant communities in urban areas, the aspirations and unmet expectations of young black Britons, the responses of local authorities and of Government to the needs of deprived communities, and, of course, the relations between the police and blacks. There would need to be witnesses not just from Brixton, but from Bristol, and from Handsworth, Birmingham, where considerable improvements in community relations are being achieved in a suburb whose social problems are not dissimilar to Brixton's.

The inquiry would serve another purpose, too. It would act as a public outlet for views and experiences that are important but perhaps not widely enough known about, or that are not paid enough regard. An inquiry could take the heat off the streets and put it in the tribunal-room. But it should not be seen purely as a safety valve, a tactic for postponing action. Its conclusions may well be the appalling difficult problems at issue, but they might at least point the way.

A CLOSE FIGHT FOR PRESIDENT GISCARD

reated to accommodate General de Gaulle, the presidency of France is an exceptionally powerful office which gives the incumbent the opportunity of dominating the French political scene for seven years. The forthcoming presidential election, with its first round on April 26 and its second two weeks later, will therefore set the pattern of French political life for some time, and its repercussions will be felt not only in France but throughout the Western world. Until a few months ago, it seemed virtually certain that resident Giscard d'Estaing could be re-elected and that, badly speaking, the political scene followed since General de Gaulle came to power in 1958 could be followed. But M. Giscard has been coming under serious attack and can no longer claim victory.

Seen from outside, the past seven years in France have been very successful. The standard of living has risen considerably, a country has modernized itself, and the French are a great deal more self-assured than they were. One French view is that they have become more "Anglo-Saxon" and less Latin; but they have also been strongly attracted to the achievements of Western Germany and have attempted, in some success, to emulate them. In spite of continuing difficulty, France today is no longer an odd man out

among the leading Western countries, either economically or politically. M. Giscard's difficulties derive largely from the fact that over the past year or so the world recession has had its effects in France. The standard of living has stopped rising and unemployment has risen to some 1,600,000. This has naturally been seized on by the left, whose candidate, M. Francois Mitterrand, came close to beating M. Giscard d'Estaing in 1974. It has also been criticized by M. Chirac, the Gaullist former Prime Minister, whose candidacy partly reflects his own personal ambition and partly the frustration felt by Gaullists, most of whom voted for M. Giscard in the second round of the 1974 election.

So far as can be judged at this stage, M. Chirac's campaign has been unexpectedly successful. He has adopted a strongly nationalistic tone, accusing M. Giscard of enfeebling France. He has also like President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, blamed much of the weakness which he detects in the French economy on too much interference by the state. He might yet upset M. Giscard's reelection strategy, either by a surprise victory over him on April 26 or else by winning so many votes from him that M. Giscard goes into the second round much weakened. M. Giscard, like his predecessors,

has banked on the prospect that in a run-off between himself and a leftist he would be bound to win, but that will not happen if, instead of switching to M. Giscard on May 10, enough Gaullists decided to transfer their votes from M. Chirac to M. Mitterrand.

So M. Mitterrand, making his third bid for the presidency, now has a chance of achieving his aim. He has a big problem, however, and that is what to do about relations with the Communists, whose votes he needs if he is to be elected in the second round, but whose possible influence on his policies frightens off voters in the centre. Unlike in 1974, when he was the joint candidate of the Socialist and Communist Parties, he now has no formal links with the Communists; and he has said that there would be no Communist ministers in his Government without a radical change in the party's policies. He has also suggested that he would be prepared to look for support from the Communists, which partly explains the party leadership's hostility to him.

M. Giscard can therefore continue to play on the voters' fear of what might happen if the left took power, as well as stressing the real achievements of his term of office. The polls at the moment suggest that it will be a close vote.

list, because British MEPs had to be directly elected before whips could delegate them to Strasbourg. It recognized Community relations in the Treaty, taking the effect of decisions in the Council of Ministers, could best be directly tackled in domestic parliaments. It ensured close contact between Westminster and Strasbourg, not least in the EEC's important legislative stage when Commission proposals are considered in committee and often drastically amended. For nearly all the Parliament's debates except those on the small budget which MEPs have authentic responsibility, need a health-type warning that MEPs have no realistic power or influence over the decisions which they take in Brussels, although their committee work is important in meaning in private. They have the right to monitor policies proposed by the Commission, but there is no question of the Council of Ministers paying much attention to them. An argument about the President of the Council, but, as some MEPs complain, their bowling will usually be played with a dead ball. They can also question Ministers, but the Commission only proposes and the Council of Ministers disposes.

Nobody understands the European Community until full allowance is made for the unanimity rule that is made for the Council of Ministers. In effect, it means that every member country can veto any proposal which touches, or is posed legislation that is of national interest, held to touch, its national interest. MEPs that as the Ten let in Portugal and Spain and become the Twelve and the unanimity rule will increasingly become unworkable and will have to be abandoned. Community enlargement by a further two or three countries will rather make the right of veto more valuable to the big financial nations, on whom the major burden of carrying power in the Community will fall. Nevertheless, a United veto will be present as a United veto in French veto, and the Kingdom of French veto, and the consequence may well be paralysis of Community decision taking.

None or little of this thesis will be palatable to most MEPs. They will see it as a challenge to their much needed effort and the discomfort of constant travel abroad. Yet most MEPs have only themselves to blame. Mainly they have had experience less as politicians than as executives, businessmen, lawyers and the like; and the moment Pierre Pflimlin, former Prime Minister of France and now Mayor of Strasbourg, built an office block for MEPs they no longer had to be in the Chamber of Deputies, public rooms and restaurants saw little of them. Until the division bells tolled they began to sit comfortably in their offices, detaching letters, telephoning, preparing a speech, or taking a shower in the cubs. They began to eat and drink together as in a Pall Mall club.

What the Nurburgring office building and the departmental committee system is doing for the Commons, so the Pflimlin amenities have done for the European Parliament. If you want to see an MEP who lacks political experience you must ring his office and make an appointment, much as a senior Cabinet minister in Whitehall. He discusses when he will be able to fit you into his diary, and you get on with the prose you are writing without the benefit of his advice. Even Sir James Scott-Hopkins and Mrs Barbara Castle, group leaders of long parliamentary experience, are caught on the wing as rarely as a golden eagle in Croydon.

Meanwhile, since there is no lack of group funds in the European Parliament, United Kingdom groups have recruited press officers who spend much time reducing Community politics to a level of hand-out bathos that Westminster has never known and would not suffer. As examples: a Labour MEP from the north-east challenges the Community to compete for growing the biggest leek; a Conservative MEP has been driven in a Leyland Metro all the way from Birmingham to Strasbourg to fly the Union flag. Non-event is piled upon non-event. Jim and Barbara—where are you?

Fears of British expatriates

From Mr and Mrs C. Stacy Waddy and others

Sir, We write on behalf of 83 parents with a total of 108 children born in 24 countries, all of us British citizens who for the moment are living and working in Caracas, Venezuela, and parents of at least 100 children born outside the United Kingdom. Most of the latter are far too young to know or do anything about a threat to their future rights as British citizens.

We are, in short, British expatriates who have learned with grief that our such children ("British by descent") will, if the present Bill before the House of Commons is not amended, be disabled from transmitting as of right British citizenship of any sort to their children if in turn born outside the United Kingdom. Yet such disability, by virtue of the Government's own amendment to its own Bill, has already been lifted from the children of citizens, not British by descent, who are naturalized or registered.

As expatriates we are scattered and unregarded; we are clueless, voiceless, voteless—and our children's children may well be stateless. To our knowledge, no Roman Catholic bishops, no councils, no organizations speak for such children, who may well be "babes in the bush" indeed. May we then, on their behalf, ask for equal rights with children also born outside the United Kingdom to immigrants who have become British citizens?

We have asked Mr Ivor Stanbrook, MP for Orpington (letter, February 19) to present our humble petition to the House of Commons for amendment to the Bill and we ask that you will:

1. Of you, Sir, whose columns alerted us, to allow us space so that British expatriates elsewhere be alerted to share our action.
2. Of United Kingdom resident parents and grandparents of children, who may well be "babes in the bush" indeed, to write to their MPs: such citizens do have votes!
3. Of all members of Parliament, to remove so undeserved a threat from the families of British citizens abroad.

We remain, Sir, your obedient

SAM STACY WADDY,

PATRICK COOK,

BRUCE DREWITT,

TONY GEORGE,

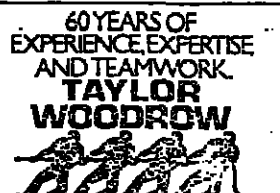
DIANNE WHYTE.

As from: PO Box 58821,

Caracas 1062A, Venezuela.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



Push in the
light
direction for
shipping? p 17

Stock markets

FT Ind 551.3
FT Gilt 69.63

Sterling

\$2.1820
Index 99.2

Dollar

Index 101.5
DM 2.1527

Gold

\$492.50

Money

3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4
3 mth Euro 5 16-15 1/2
6 mth Euro 5 16-15 1/2

IN BRIEF

Taxation policies making rich richer

As families now pay more in income tax than they did in 1979, the Government's Budget in 1979, which led to a Low Pay Unit, says that Tory tax policies have made the rich richer while the poor pay more. It also claims the number of families in "poverty trap" has increased by at least 40 per cent since 1979.

These families now pay more in income tax than they did in 1979, the Government's Budget in 1979, which led to a Low Pay Unit, says that Tory tax policies have made the rich richer while the poor pay more. It also claims the number of families in "poverty trap" has increased by at least 40 per cent since 1979.

operation call on energy problems

Water international cooperation is needed to deal with energy problems, delegates to the Economic and Development Conference at a Symposium in London said. The conference should be held in the presence of members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and other Third World countries.

de figures delayed

Publication of the figures by the Government has been postponed indefinitely because of the Service dispute. The unions' action has prevented the processing of import report information.

pace work expands

United Kingdom defence industry is "healthy" and "expanding", it is claimed by the Ministry of Defence. Exports have stagnated for years at about £600m, but an Inter Company report out today.

stry reform plea

Institute of Directors is other employers' organization to form a united front to the Government for industrial relations measures. It said it was doubtful if last year's Employment Act could provide the long-term legal work.

arts inquiry call

Michael Grylls, MP for West Surrey and chair of the Conservative In Committee, has called on Sir Biffen, Secretary of Trade, to set up a committee of inquiry into the state of the British Air Authority which he has said is "inefficient, overpriced and unresponsive to the needs of the air."

output rises

Textile production in the UK rose 1.5 per cent over the year although output was 8 per cent down on the year 1980, according to the Office of Statistics. The industry's workforce fell by a further 1,070 in the year to 42,550.

ishing contract

On Russell, the Royal Yacht, furniture manufacturer of Broadway, Worcester, has secured a £750,000 contract for solid oak furniture for the new offices of Sea Containers at King's London.

emala oil find

Has been struck in the area of northern Guatemala. Texaco and Amoco jointly drilling here.

discovery

Gold has been reported in mining on 35 miles south-west of Sunbury.

TUC recommends abolition of external finance limits for state industries

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The TUC is putting proposals to the Government for the abolition of external finance limits for state industries. The union's proposal is to allow state industries to raise money on the open market for sale on the open market.

Members of the influential TUC Economic Committee agreed to circulate a confidential 10,000-word policy paper around Whitehall so that immediate pressure could be exerted on the Government.

Union leaders believe that the present financial framework is "unfair, unattractive and incoherent" and that the Government is "destroying state corporations' investment programmes."

The paper has also been sent to the Nationalized Industries' Chairman's Group, which has set up a study group on different ways of financing the nationalized industries.

TUC leaders believe that external finance limits are a "thoroughly inadequate form of financial control" of state corporations because they encourage long-term investment programmes, clash with financial and performance targets and encourage under-investment.

The unions want to start from the other end. Rather than starting from "narrow financial issues", the plans of each industry should be agreed between the industry, the Government and the unions.

Investment levels to achieve the plans should be decided, and finance then raised. This is surely a more sensible way to use the nation's resources than the debilitating and often ideological shifts in policy to which our nationalized industries are subject, the paper says.

Overnight grants to industries or the meeting of a revenue deficit should continue to appear in public expenditure planning totals, but the TUC urges ministers to accept that different considerations apply to investment.

"Investment to meet an agreed plan is not a burden which the economy has to bear, but a proper and responsible provision for the country's future," the document says. "Government loans for nationalized industries' investment should therefore be treated as a completely separate item in the public accounts."

Many nationalized industries have over the years borrowed funds on the domestic and international capital markets. This practice held no threat to the principles of public ownership and control.

"The nationalized industries, like their EEC counterparts, should be free to issue bonds to the general public and raise loans in all appropriate ways on the capital markets. There is no reason why any sums so raised should be accounted as part of the public sector borrowing requirement," it says.

British Telecom is cited as a state concern that could issue bonds. "If the industries were allowed to issue bonds, it might for promotional purposes be useful to link these bonds to specific large-scale investment projects in the public sector, such as rail electrification, a gas-gathering pipeline or the renewal of the sewerage system."

"It is unlikely, given the close integration of such projects into an industry's network and the need for a public corporation to maintain control of its pricing, that investment funds from the private market linked to such projects could be genuine risk capital. The bonds would receive a fixed rate."

Adding that many industries have long had subsidiaries partly owned by private industry (for example, the National Coal Board's Ancillaries and Transport Groups), the TUC suggests that in certain sectors new joint public-private subsidiaries might facilitate investment and the extension of the public sector.

Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, yesterday complained in the strongest terms that he should have received a copy of the Monopolies Commission report on his industry at the same time as it was presented to ministers.

Ministers received the report in the first week in March, but Mr England has yet to receive a copy. "In cases like this where the report is an audit on the efficiency of the organization it is quite wrong that we have not received a copy," Mr England said.

His complaint will be made more formally tomorrow when he addresses the Electricity Industry Club in London on monopolies. It is bound to irritate and embarrass the Government which must decide what to do about the report.

The report is the result of a referral by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, last May. It followed similar referrals on British Rail's southern and south-eastern commuter services and the Severn-Trent Water Board, but amounts to the first important monopoly commission study of one of the large nationalized industries.

Ministers have the right to amend Monopolies Commission reports before publication, and where there is the possibility of share prices being influenced, it was right that the contents were kept secret before publication, Mr England said.

But he thought that in a referral of a nationalized industry, the organization subject to an efficiency audit should receive the report as soon as it was available. "For future investigations it is right and proper for the industry to see the report," he said.

Leaks of what the report says have already begun to appear, but the CEBG is unable to reply not having seen the report.

In making the referral, Mrs Oppenheim said it was important to establish that everything was being done to increase efficiency and keep electricity prices as low as possible.

The commissioners are known to have paid particular attention to the arrangement whereby the CEBG has agreed to take 75 million tonnes of coal a year from the National Coal Board providing the price of coal does not rise faster than the index of retail prices.

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Revenue flow needed to hasten cut in interest rates, CBI says Employers urged to pay taxes direct

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

A further call to employers to frustrate civil service unions' attempts to delay tax payments is expected to be made by the Confederation of British Industry this week.

Industrialists are expected to be advised at Wednesday's meeting of the policy-making CBI Council that it is in their own interests to make PAYE and other tax payments direct to the Government. They will be told that the more revenue that reaches the Exchequer the quicker interest rates will fall.

Letters have already been sent out by Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI's director general, urging members to make tax payments through National Giro or bank giro direct to the Government. It is understood that Sir Terence's letter reinforces the more detailed advice sent to the 30 largest employers by the Inland Revenue's Regional Controllers.

This asks employers to use the credit forms already supplied with booklets of payrolls by the Inland Revenue.

While no unusual procedures are being advocated at this stage, the aim is to by-

pass bottlenecks caused by industrial action at the main PAYE processing centres at Cumbernauld and Shipley.

Industrialists hope that if they can persuade their members to continue to make payments, they can reduce the figure of between £750m and £1,000m which the Treasury estimates was cut from expected Government revenue for March.

Employer organizations are united in urging the Prime Minister to stand firm on the civil servants' pay claim, and to concentrate representations on winning a reduction in public expenditure generally.

The CBI's council will hear on Wednesday the first report from a task force which is analysing public accounts to see where savings can be made.

All categories of employers groups are angry that private industry has suffered many more job losses and redundancies than the public sector. The task force, headed by Mr Malcolm McAlpine, is expected to concentrate its scrutiny on manning levels and efficiency in local government as well as Whitehall.

Individual employers are being asked not only by the CBI but also by the Association of Chambers of Commerce and the Institute of Directors to help the Government's own attempts to keep public sector wages down by paying their taxes.

The national council of the chambers of commerce association agreed unanimously at its meeting last week that it would urge member firms to "cooperate fully with the Government in trying to break the strike", and Sir Monty Finiston, the president, wrote to Mrs Thatcher at the weekend to assure her that support would be forthcoming.

A more persuasive argument for less militant employers however will be the promise that cooperation will speed up a reduction in interest rates.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs Thatcher have consistently emphasized that a reduction in interest rates will depend on the public sector borrowing requirement. It is estimated that the industrial action by the Civil Service has boosted the central government borrowing requirement to about £13,000m compared with the £12,700m predicted for the financial year just ended.

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CEGB chief protests at failure to receive monopolies report

By Nicholas Hirst

Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, yesterday complained in the strongest terms that he should have received a copy of the Monopolies Commission report on his industry at the same time as it was presented to ministers.

Ministers received the report in the first week in March, but Mr England has yet to receive a copy. "In cases like this where the report is an audit on the efficiency of the organization it is quite wrong that we have not received a copy," Mr England said.

His complaint will be made more formally tomorrow when he addresses the Electricity Industry Club in London on monopolies. It is bound to irritate and embarrass the Government which must decide what to do about the report.

The report is the result of a referral by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, last May. It followed similar referrals on British Rail's southern and south-eastern commuter services and the Severn-Trent Water Board, but amounts to the first important monopoly commission study of one of the large nationalized industries.

Ministers have the right to amend Monopolies Commission reports before publication, and where there is the possibility of share prices being influenced, it was right that the contents were kept secret before publication, Mr England said.

But he thought that in a referral of a nationalized industry, the organization subject to an efficiency audit should receive the report as soon as it was available. "For future investigations it is right and proper for the industry to see the report," he said.

Leaks of what the report says have already begun to appear, but the CEBG is unable to reply not having seen the report.

In making the referral, Mrs Oppenheim said it was important to establish that everything was being done to increase efficiency and keep electricity prices as low as possible.

The commissioners are known to have paid particular attention to the arrangement whereby the CEBG has agreed to take 75 million tonnes of coal a year from the National Coal Board providing the price of coal does not rise faster than the index of retail prices.

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MANAGEMENT

A steep rise in fuel bills brought about by Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget has made the road transport industry uncomfortably aware that the thousands of heavy goods vehicles on the roads of Britain spend a third of their time running empty.

In the jargon of the trade, the problem is one of "back loading". A lorry, having carried a consignment of goods from A to B, returns empty to A for the lack of a suitable load.

Although much of this waste is unavoidable, the Department of the Environment's Road Transport Research Laboratory has estimated that 10 per cent of the empty running is directly attributable to a paucity of information about the availability both of return loads and the vehicles to carry them.

The laboratory calculated that in 1978 this communications gap was costing £10m a year, a figure which is much larger at today's prices, especially since the Budget.

Though undoubtedly pressing, the problem was, however, thought to be intractable until recently. Apart from anything else, the road haulage business is fragmented. About 125,000 different operators are involved and the average fleet size is only two or three vehicles.

Competition is intense. Hauliers are understandably fearful of the free-for-all that might follow from a widespread sharing of information.

Undaunted, British Road Services, the largest road transport operator in Britain, went ahead and introduced Datafreight. This is a computerized system designed to bring together loads and lorries wherever the twin can meet.

After experimenting with the system in its own organiza-

Haulage: bridging an expensive communications gap

tion for nine months BRS launched Datafreight publicly last summer, making it generally available as part of its membership services division. The project began with 30 sites throughout the country linked to a central computer in Birmingham. There will be 70 sites by the middle of this year.

A Datafreight operator uses a keyboard and a video display unit to enter and retrieve information about freight to be moved and vehicles available for back loads. A haulier with a lorry that has completed a trip from, say, Glasgow to London telephones his local Datafreight depot to see if there is a suitable load available for the return journey. If there is, he is told at once and a rate negotiated.

If there is no available load, the haulier can have the details of his vehicle and its capacity fed into the computer and made known to the whole network. It opens up the opportunity of picking up a load at any convenient point on any suitable route back to Scotland.

Transport operators pay a subscription of £75 a year to take part in the scheme, plus £30 for each vehicle they run. So far, according to Mr Mark Beaman, director of BRS Membership Services, 80 firms are taking part, involving a total of more than 300 vehicles.

"We were swamped with inquiries with hardly any advertising," he says, "but we have been very strict and selective about enrolling hauliers. Eventually, we want the system to be very widely used, but it is essential that we set a high standard from the beginning."

Apart from the benefits afforded to traffic operators, who are able to make one call in search of a back load instead of perhaps a dozen spread over five hours or more, Datafreight is obviously of use to people with goods to move. Originators of loads—manufacturers, suppliers or distributors—can use the system free of charge to advertise the freight that they want transported.

BRS has also made Datafreight available under licence to own-account operators with large fleets of lorries and a number of depots who may also experience problems with back loading. Dunlop was the first to buy the software in this way and is now saving some £100,000 a year as a result.

The Road Haulage Association was interested in the project from the beginning and is now testing the system and its pilot scheme. Tests are also taking place in Rotterdam and Antwerp, and there have been demonstrations in Belgium, West Germany and the Irish Republic. Inquiries have come from Canada, Japan, Brazil and South Africa. Nato is

also interested in the strategic possibilities opened up by Datafreight.

The system is a success, Mr Beaman says, because from the outset it was designed to meet the requirements of experts in road transport. "The big computer companies have been looking at the problem for years, but without success because they didn't understand our industry," he says. "Datafreight was designed to transport people for themselves and that's the difference."

BRS was careful to make the equipment easy to use and to avoid computer jargon. A measure of the success of the system is that wherever terminals have been installed video display units have become accepted tools of the trade—and that means in transport offices, traditionally rather rough and ready places where filing cabinets are regarded as something of a luxury.

The system has excited interest in an industry that is inclined to be suspicious of change and what has helped is the fact that the computer is programmed to preserve confidentiality.

The Datafreight operator acts as a broker between those with loads and those with lorries and, because the system involves determining the amount and nature of the information put into the system and do not deal with each other directly, hauliers' fears of chaotic competition are allayed.

"I know juggernauts are bad news, but here is a juggernaut firm trying to minimize the problem and help energy conservation," Mr Beaman says. "It's bad enough when huge lorries jam up country lanes—but it's twice as bad when they're running empty."

Iain Murray

French lessons to ponder

"Industry was told bluntly that it must become competitive if it was to survive—it should not expect the State to bear the cost of essential adjustment. In this new industrial strategy there was no place for lame ducks and companies are responsible for their own expansion. According to this new approach, industrial choices were the prerogative of the firm; the new industrial strategy would therefore be based on entrepreneurial initiative."

Does this sound familiar? The philosophy certainly falls very much in line with the thoughts of Sir Keith Joseph, the Government's high priest of monetarism and of the operation of market forces as a tool of industrial policy. But the words are not his. They are taken from a study commissioned by Sir Keith's own Department of Industry on the policies which the French Government has developed to promote industrial adjustment.

With the passage of time, however, the French approach has been modified. Dr Diana Green, a lecturer at the City of London Polytechnic and author of the study, goes on record that the achievements in the field of industrial policy have been publicly acknowledged more than once by Sir Keith.

It has still to secure its withdrawal from industrial affairs. Indeed, after opting for a selective approach to intervention it has taken a more "offensive" attitude to the problems posed by industrial adjustment.

This continuing intervention appears to have been prompted by three main motives. In the declining and labour-intensive industries, such as steel, shipbuilding and textiles, there has been concern about the problems of unemployment. There has also been a desire to defend domestic industry against "savage" competition from the rapidly industrializing nations and from industrialized competitors.

But the most significant factor, according to Dr Green, has been the French Government's wish to catch up in the "new technologies" race and eventually to overtake West Germany, Japanese and American competitors.

It all boils down to an unashamedly pragmatic approach, a matter of picking likely winners, defending core industries and taking a hand in restructuring operations.

While distancing itself from the opinions and arguments advanced in the study, the Department of Industry's senior civil servants, and Sir Keith in particular, will no doubt find much in it to ponder—and possibly act upon.

Peter Hill

* Managing Industrial Change? French Policies to Promote Industrial Adjustment, by Dr Diana Green; HMSO, £5.95.

Channelling investment into small companies

From Mr Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey, North West (Conservative)

Sir, The article by Oliver Stanley, "Have Small Businesses Been Let Down?" (April 6) is, I believe, less than fair in its assessment of the Business Start-up Scheme. The full details of this have now been published in the Finance Bill.

Despite Mr Stanley's efforts to pour cold water on the proposal, it remains a unique incentive to channel investment into new smaller companies. For this the Chancellor is to be congratulated. None of our main trading competitors have a similar scheme enabling individuals to invest up to £10,000 annually in new small trading companies and to obtain income tax relief at their marginal rate of income tax, including the investment income surcharge.

We were always aware that the scheme was designed for outside or minority investors, not the proprietor or his associates; that the capital must remain in the company for at least five years; and that relief would only be obtained if the investment was made during the first three years of operation of the company.

However, I do agree with Mr Stanley that the definition of the type of company has been too tightly drawn. We must try to enlarge it to include all manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. While service firms, such as advertising agencies, hairdressers are included, companies "dealing in goods" are not. The result would be, for example, that a garage that merely services cars would be included, but if that same garage started selling cars it would then be excluded. This confusion that would result from such a restrictive clause would be appalling.

Again, stockholders and distributors of parts for manufacturing industry would also be excluded. Surely we want to encourage new businesses in this area just as much as in the pure manufacturing industry? I hope we shall move an amendment in Committee to remove the word "goods" in Clause 54(2)(a). That would make this excellent scheme more effective.

Also, there seems to be no valid reason why employees of the company should not benefit from relief. At the same time the maximum stake for outside investment of 25 per

cent is too low. It should be increased to at least 40 per cent.

The basic concept of the scheme is to help to overcome the problems of attracting sufficient risk capital to new businesses in the critical early years. I hope, also, that it will provide much needed personal business experience which could be of vital importance to the new entrepreneur, as the evidence that a major contributory factor to the failure of some companies is a lack of general management experience.

Mr Stanley says "helping small businesses has become a way of pretending to reduce taxes without actually doing so." With respect, this is unfair. Any outside investor who backs a new company in the tune of £10,000, and is a rate taxpayer, will not find a "pretence" in the reduction of his tax bill of £5,000. This is a real tax incentive and one which I hope will appeal to growing number of higher income earners. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL GRYLLS, Chairman, Small Business Bureau, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Fuel tax blow to industry

From the Director-General, the Freight Transport Association

Sir, The Government is probably right to believe that elimination of the 20p per gallon increase in the price of fuel proposed in the Budget would be compensated by corresponding increases in taxation elsewhere. It is certainly wrong if it believes that the whole issue is therefore as broad as it is long—a storm in a teacup.

The fact is that the increase in fuel tax is a direct impost upon industry, adding 3.4 per cent to transport costs, setting back industrial recovery at home and inhibiting British industry in competition with Europe. That is a sharp contrast to the general strategy of the Budget. It also makes a strange bedfellow of the Government's continued protestations that it is aiming to help industry.

Moreover, in the end of day our prices are now far and away the highest in Europe, half as much again as France and Germany and twice as much as Italy. I would have thought we have more than enough problems in Europe without gratuitously adding to them.

All this on top of the well-publicized implications for employment and the rural areas. Surely there is an overwhelming case for the Government to have second thoughts about this part of the Finance Bill.

H. R. FEATHERSTONE, Director-General, Freight Transport Association, Hermes House, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 9UZ.

Business Names Registry

From Mr R. K. D. Shah

Sir, It is regrettable that the Government is once again seeking to introduce the highly controversial proposal for the abolition of the Business Names Registry notwithstanding that it has already suffered one defeat in the House of Lords on this issue.

One inevitable result which will follow if the proposal is implemented will be an increase in legal costs in cases involving consumer, industrial, personal and employment claims where the precise person or body of persons to sue has to be identified by

Deficit hidden by jargon

From Mr H. O. H. Coulson

Sir, I have for some time been interested to note continual references to the "public sector borrowing requirement" or, as is so frequently called, the PSBR.

It seems to me that it would at the same time be most honest and more enlightening if this item were described in the official account as a "deficit" on the year's account. Budgeting for a deficit was being regarded as a here in the former days, but now is concealed under the peculiar jargon. It is in fact of course a budget deficit.

The position might also be helped if the state account endeavoured to draw some distinction between revenue and capital expenditure, recall shortly after the conclusion of the Second World War the late Sir Harold Rowland carried out some inquiry into government accounting methods and seemed only to have come out with one suggestion: the government accounts should be based upon double entry, did endeavour to make clear that Sir Harold that the really important point was to distinguish between capital and revenue expenditure, and so far as I knew, an old clerk, the state accounts were compiled on a double entry basis, but of course double entry does not mean very much in terms of distinguishing between capital and revenue.

Yours faithfully, H. O. H. COULSON, 4 The Little Boltons, London SW10 9LP.

A long way from the bazaar...

Sir Anthony Burney should take a trip to Cardiff next time he goes shopping. He is the former chairman of Debenhams who severed all links with the company at the end of last year, roundly declaring that its stores looked like bazaars.

Debenhams believes that it has the answer to his complaints in a new flagship store in the St David's Shopping Centre, Cardiff, which was opened last Thursday and took £75,000 in the first day of trading.

Debenhams had invested £12m and six years of research and development at Cardiff to try to shed the bazaar image. It hopes that at last it will have the formula for reversing the slide in department stores' share of retail trade.

Students of retailing have become inured to the hope that sprang eternal at Debenhams. Throughout the 1970s the company was marked as a recovery situation, whether it was voraciously going for growth or, shortly afterwards, rigorously retrenching.

Few of these new beginnings have yet produced happy endings. But even the disgruntled Sir Anthony might allow that the new Cardiff store looks excitingly different.

The inspiration is from America, where the continuing buoyancy of department store sales is attributed to the philosophy that the customer can be excited by putting less into the store and displaying what is shown more attractively.

Gone are the cumbersome three-tiered gondolas, racks, shelves, revolving stands and jumble sale counters pressing ever more tightly on to the cramped gangways. Promotional banners and signposts to the different departments are banished.

Instead, subtly contrasting colours and unobtrusively fitting identify the shop's different areas, with wide walkways, uncluttered views and clever lighting systems enticing the customer through the shop.

Each department has a colour scheme and decorative theme of its own, with fixtures, often in chrome, stainless steel, glass or Perspex, designed to show different kinds of goods at their best.

The interior decor and custom-built fixtures which Chais and Johnson, the American specialists, have created for the new shop are so different from what is in the general run of



Mr Peter Davies, director of Debenhams' new Cardiff store, making it "a day out for the family" again.

Debenhams' seventy present stores that Mr Peter Davies, the Cardiff store director, says that he is having to break the habits of a lifetime to work with them.

Luckily, it has so far been a short lifetime. Though he has been in retailing for 18 years since starting as a shop fitter's assistant, Mr Davies is still only 33. Given the pick of Debenhams' staff for his management team, he has gone relentlessly for youth. Mr Geoff Burgess, the general manager, is 30. The assistant managers, responsible for a floor apiece, are 31, 28 and 28.

The average age of the departmental managers, each responsible for at least £500,000 of business a year, is only 26.

The view is that people have to be young to adapt to the new ideas that the shop represents. Indeed, many of the 600 staff will have had no previous experience in retailing at all. The advertisements which attracted more than 3,000 applicants for the jobs stressed

that none would be necessary. "We are going to put the excitement back into retailing," Mr Davies claims. "We are going to create a department store where you really might take the family for a day out."

Years ago the company's slogan used to be "Have a day out at Debenhams". Now the company wants to replace "the service that has been lost over the years," Mr Davies says.

The American design and decor which make the Cardiff Debenhams so different have also confronted Mr Davies and his recruits with some unfamiliar problems. In a conventional store the goods for the first floor furniture department would not normally come into the shop over a delicately tinted carpet. Nor would there be carpets of different colours marking distinct areas, so preventing staff from moving good from one place to another in response to the varying pressures of trade.

The fundamental difference is that the Cardiff store has to have far fewer goods than its size suggests. "The density of fixtures is only two thirds the usual," Mr Davies says, "but then the density of merchandise in the fixtures is only two thirds the normal as well."

"We can have little more than half the goods in the shop at one time that would be in a normal store of the same size. I can show the width of choice, but I cannot stock in depth."

As a result, there has to be a team of full-time self-fillers on call throughout the day and a squad of part-timers work every evening replenishing the stock and reorganizing the displays. "It is very much like a supermarket's way of doing things," Mr Davies says, "but our salespeople will be able to concentrate on selling."

His staffing arrangements depart from the norm in other ways. A large proportion of the staff are engaged as part-timers to work daily four-hour shifts. "We often found that the sort of smart, intelligent people we wanted were women who wanted a job for a few hours which would get them out of the home while the children were at school. They will look on the job as a pleasure rather than a career. Some of them have even had experience in the profession in their previous jobs."

Mr Davies adds that he believes that he gets good value for money from part-timers. A four-hour worker, he says, is 90 per cent efficient. Someone kept on the job eight hours only scores 40 per cent.

Of the part-timers, half work from ten until two and the others from noon until four pm. "That way we have 70 per cent of the staff on duty in the peak shopping hours, or lunchtime," Mr Davies says. "In a normal store they tend to have full staffing at nine, when there is no one about, and then at noon, when there are ten sales as many people to serve as a third of the staff troop off for lunch."

Walking round the store, Mr Davies says: "I can still hardly believe it. Some of our colour schemes would have been unthinkable before. And all this space—I keep thinking, 'Come on, we can get a bit more stuff out on show here!' Then I have to stop and say to myself 'No, that's not the idea. I have to back all the ideas.' This, Sir Anthony Burney might agree, is a long way from a bazaar."

Robin Young

County town and home of giants

A fact not generally known outside Wiltshire is that the county town is Trowbridge. This may seem surprising in a county which has populous Swindon and the cathedral city of Salisbury but it was because for the county councilors of Victorian times Trowbridge was the only town to which they could travel by rail from any part of the county and be home again the same day.

Trowbridge, admittedly the largest, of a group of western towns, still dependent mainly on the cloth trade, which had flourished there since the Middle Ages.

That trade has vanished, but the town, now with a population of 25,100, is still prosperous and growing steadily. About 40 per cent of its employed citizens work in manufacture (compared with about 30 per cent for the entire country) and the trend is increasing.

Local industry rests mainly on small firms, but Trowbridge has several giants as well. Among them are Ushers, the brewers, established in Trowbridge in 1818 and now part of the Watney Mann and Crumpton empire.

Thoroughly modernized over the past ten years, the Trowbridge brewery now serves an

Industry in the regions

Trowbridge, Wiltshire

area covering the whole of south-western England and South Wales and has recently set up new depots at Taunton, Truro, Cwmbran and Pembroke Dock.

For many years Unigate Foods had its headquarters at Trowbridge, organizing the distribution of many millions of gallons of milk daily from 10,000 suppliers to dairies throughout the country. As it was obliged to take all the milk produced by the dairy farmers with whom it had contracts, there was often a big seasonal surplus over demand—sometimes as much as 11 million gallons a day—and this had to be turned into cheese, butter or skimmed milk at the company's St Ivel creameries.

In October, 1979, when the Milk Marketing Board bought sixteen Unigate dairies, the seventeen remaining creameries became the property of a new company, St

Ivel, autonomous but an integral part of a re-formed Unigate.

Released from the necessity of dealing with all the milk available, St Ivel is now able to concentrate on producing what its customers want. Unigate, the parent company, has allocated £6m for new investment by St Ivel and the computer at the group's headquarters at Bellefield House, Trowbridge, is still at St Ivel's disposal.

At present St Ivel has about 600 employees at Trowbridge, but the work force should increase as projected plans develop.

Bovyers, another giant, which for more than 180 years has been processing meats, notably making pies and sausages from Wiltshire pigs, is now another autonomous member of Unigate.

Founded as a factory by a local miller, Abraham Bowyer, in 1808, it steadily expanded its business until by 1972 it had an annual turnover of £30m. It was then acquired by Unigate, since when its turnover had increased to £100m (in 1979). From Trowbridge it controls factories at Malton and Sharnbrook in Yorkshire, Plymouth, Liverpool, Amersham and Witney.

At Trowbridge it employs more than 1,500 people,

Another company of national and international standing to have a factory at Trowbridge (or, in this instance, at the village of Staverton, three miles to the south of Nestlé). Established there 83 years ago, it specialized until the 1960s in producing condensed milk and sterilized cream. Now it has switched to yoghurt, tomato sauce, creamed tomato soup and a variety of pasta and dessert products. A new plant is being built for converting tins into cans, for use there and in other Nestlé factories.

The Nestlé labour force totals about 560.

Trowbridge's unemployment figures have been well below the national average and the town is trying to ensure that the pace of industrial activity is maintained. The West Wiltshire District Council, in whose province it is situated, is looking for more land for industrial development and has adopted a favourable attitude towards planning applications.

Besides manufacturing industry, Trowbridge naturally attracts business through being the administrative centre of Wiltshire, and about 200 people work in local government.

Ralph Whitlock

Eagle Star

Financial Report 1980

Profit maintained despite a very difficult year.

RESULT AND DIVIDEND

Profit before tax £65.9m compared with £64.3m. Total dividend declared—10.5p per share, an increase of 16.7%.

INVESTMENTS

Income up by a very satisfactory 24% to £73.8m.
Invested funds up by over £300m.
Acquisition of Bernard Sunley results in £150m increase in property portfolio.
Ratio of capital and free reserves including appreciation on investments up to 85% of general premium income.

GROVEWOOD SECURITIES

Another record year with profits increasing to £14.4m despite trade recession.

GENERAL INSURANCE

1980 has been a most difficult year, both in the UK and overseas, accounted for by intense competition and inflation.
Worldwide underwriting losses deteriorated to £32.5m from £18.8m. Premium income increased by 11%.
In UK the employers' liability accounts particularly were hit by a sharp increase in levels of personal injury claims costs.
Overseas, there were reduced losses in most territories except Australia, which continues to deteriorate. A welcome improvement in Belgium.

LIFE ASSURANCE

Worldwide new business was satisfactory. Record bonuses declared for Policyholders and increased profit for Shareholders.

Chairman, Sir Denis Mountain, comments on future outlook

"The insurance industry cannot be insulated from the economic environment in which it operates and for Eagle Star as a predominantly UK insurer the effect of the recession and increasing claims costs make the tasks of our underwriters, faced with unprecedented competition for premium income, ever more difficult. Whilst we expect a continuing positive cash flow, with the likelihood of interest rates coming down the rate of growth in investment income is not likely to be as great. We are confident that the strength of our funds will stand us in good stead for the current year."

For the Annual Report, please contact:
The Secretary, Eagle Star Holdings Ltd.,
1, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8BE
Telephone: 01-588 1212



Eagle Star

for your protection.

Aftermath of the Hedderwick affair

2 seems no reason why the emphasis change for the moment. Oils and may be dragged up by the rest of the if it continues to perform well. But a little reason to expect them to

None of which, for the time being, is of the slightest interest to potential applicants for ERCs' loan chutz. Messe readily acknowledges that they are an unknown quantity, and the issue could flop horribly. However, the probability is that small company growth possibilities, specifically in high technology, have now become sufficiently well known to attract £20m and more. That, in itself, may well be good enough evidence for the Government and the small business evangelists that the tide has turned and the risk has been reduced to the point where genuinely new money will be created.

According to Cornwall County Council, 85 per cent of

So there is a loss of confidence that could lead many owners (either big ones that

Michael Bailly

Photograph: Peter Gilv

skilled work is very much reduced", he says. "Unfortunately, we lose a large number of

hoteliers have set up their own publicity unit and are trying to stamp out the last ves-

fall this summer and the more distant destinations will be worst hit.

And Sandberg is making headway in his present suit: he has delighted the shareholders of the Royal Bank of Scotland and tantalized thousands more with the prospect of putting a complacent cracker under the banks.

we are offering a 25% discount
with some jewels being reduced
This is an opportunity not to be missed
our next Sale is scheduled

GRI
80 Jermyn Street London

MA
n SW1

GRIMA
80 Jermyn Street London SW1

Ronald Pullen
(in London)
Richard Hughes
(in Hongkong)

Other extraordinary items comprise £5.83m for closure costs which have been offset by a net book profit of £1.68m on the Scottish Aviation nationalization settlement. Laird has agreed to a £3.75m settlement with the Government, which has all been received.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Search is on for more evidence of recovery

The message from the stock market rang loud and clear last week. The worst of the recession is over and a recovery is under way.

As a result the FT Index rose 10 points to 2,558.6, its highest since May 4, 1979.

For further evidence of the recovery, the market will be looking to companies that have to bear the brunt of the recession. So this week is particularly interesting with statements from a whole range of leading industrialists covering a wide range.

In the economic front the message under way with the end of industrial production in February followed on Tuesday by the indices of earnings for February.

The Department of Employment and Productivity Index for March. Employment publishes the price index for March.

The Bank of England issues the London dollar and the money supply figures for March.

The interim statement, out today, is expected to show a small improvement over the corresponding period, with earnings rising from £3.5m to £3.5m compared with £3.5m.

The group's product mix is

This week

unlikely to show any great change, but several of its recently launched products should now be starting to make their presence felt and a small increase is expected. In addition, a slightly lower level of sterling will present a more favourable appearance to currency transactions from exports and overseas contributions.

While the group will have continued to experience de-stocking of its UK pharmaceutical products by chemists, the general feeling is that the worst is over. Analysts are looking for around £40m in the second half, making about £70m, compared with £66m last time.

The interim dividend should be at least maintained with some experts looking for a 10 per cent increase on last year's payment of 5p gross.

Rio Tinto-Zinc where figures are due on Tuesday, is beginning to feel the effects of the collapse in industrial demand for metals and steadily rising capital costs. With gold from Bougainville as the only significant counter-cyclical element on the mining side, RTZ will be hard pressed to top last year's £150m in attributable profits by very much.

Earnings a share are projected to be around 62p net, compared with 59.4p in 1979, although they could reach 65p depending on how the industrial interests fare. The financial position is strong, so



Sir Austin Bide (left), chairman of Glaxo, and Sir Roy Sisson, chairman of Smiths Industries.



the dividend is influenced more by the commitment to maintain steady dividend growth—and perhaps in these turbulent times to ward off unwelcome bidders—than by the capacity to pay.

A 15 per cent increase on 1979 would give a total of 17.25p net, say 18p, while a defensive payout could rise to 24p.

Smiths Industries has interim figures due out tomorrow and is expected to have made further progress, mainly on the back of its lucrative aerospace interests. Analysts are looking for around £11m compared with £9.3m last time with the interim dividend maintained at 5.3p gross.

Once again the main strength of the group has come from its aerospace operations where it is involved with the European multi-role combat aircraft, the Tornados. In addition, its overseas

interests continue to perform well with both the US and South African operations performing strongly. Indeed, this will have gone some way towards offsetting the group's UK manufacturing operations, particularly in the automotive trade, where the recession continues to make an impact.

Looking at the second half, the aerospace interests should maintain progress while elsewhere in the UK recent rationalization measures should start to filter through.

Hawker Siddeley unveils its full-year figures on Wednesday. These should continue to reflect the strong performance witnessed at the interim stage.

TODAY—Interims: Arbutnot Government Securities Trust, Burton Group (amended), British Empire Securities and General Trust, and Glaxo. Final: Beradin Rubber Estates, Edinburgh Investment Trust, Erith and Co, London and Commen-

tal Advertising, Mersey Docks and Harbour, Rugby Portland Cement, and Yorkgreen Investments.

TOMORROW—Interims: Bankers' Investment Trust, Cedar Investment Trust, Equity Income Trust, Ingall Industries, Lead Investors, Maronair International, News International and Smiths Industries. Final: Associated Biscuit, Aberthaw & Bristol Channel Portland Cement, Bamber's Stores, Bank of Ireland, Bank of Scotland, Benford Concrete Machinery, CD Bramall, Clyde Petroleum, Horace Cory, Expanded Metal, Hallan Sleight and Cheston, Hallam Group of Nottingham, Hambro Life Assurance, Holene of London, Homecham, I. and I. Hyman, Luduva (Ceylon) Tea & Rubber Estates, Northern Engineering, Provident Life Association of London, Renown Inc, Rio Tinto-Zinc, and Savoy Hotels.

WEDNESDAY—Interims: Ad-west Group, Audio Fidelity, Kalamzoo, Linead, and Wade Pottery. Final: Air Call Ltd, Anglo American Investment Trust, Asbury and Madeley Berwick Timpco, Bristol Stadium, Burmah Oil, Cosalt, I. J. Dewhurst Holdings, Finlay Packaging, Hawker Siddeley, G. F. Lovell, Albert Martin, Pearl Assurance, Securities Trust of Scotland, Sun Life Assurance, and United Carriers.

THURSDAY—Interims: M. P. Kent, Pinalis General Scottish Trust, Hewden Stuart Plant, London and Holyrood Trust, London and Provincial Trust, Mital Corp, Rowan and Boden, Scottish Mortgage, Sheffield Brick and Tiles, and Stationery Society (amended). FRIDAY—Public Liability.

Why the long arm of the state is looming on the horizon

Commodities

Expansion of the state, and with it of regulation, has been a prominent characteristic of twentieth century life. Indeed, in Britain it has prompted the suggestion that for the first time in the country's history, the state and the people merged. Nevertheless some areas of life have been relatively untouched by the long arm of the state. The City is one such.

But that is changing. The recent Banking Act introduced a degree of statutory control previously thought unnecessary and undesirable. The Stock Exchange is locked in battle with the Office of Fair Trading over its alleged restrictive practices. Lloyd's is coming more and more under scrutiny. Of the great markets, only commodities stays largely unfettered, without investigation looming on the horizon.

So far, the argument goes, it has simply not been necessary. The markets have run their own affairs very well. Physical markets are dominated by trade members who have a real interest in orderly business.

Somewhere at the back of self-regulation stands the unmeasured—and perhaps unmeasurable—authority of the Bank of England. Its influence in the markets has no statutory basis, and effectively grew in the post-war period from the Bank's administration of exchange controls. The Bank's

power in the commodity markets today does not even extend to a proper supervisory role. It is more a watchdog, monitoring market movements with the assistance of the markets themselves.

"Speculation" is the magic word. When market traders and clients were well known to each other, and when turnovers were far smaller, the dangers from speculative outbursts were less. For these purposes, it little matters how one defines speculation: it is a word the market uses freely enough, often approvingly. What matters is that the volume of funds available today, the speed of electronic communications, and the variety of markets mean that surges in price volatility are endemic.

London is changing in two vital respects. It is about to acquire a brace of markets which are highly prone to volatile fluctuations—gold futures and financial futures. In the United States these are the markets favoured by speculators and hot money, so much so that in Chicago up to 70 per cent of turnover could be non-trade interest. Partly because of the SEC, some of this money will find its way to London.

A second feature is the arrival in London of the big American commodity houses. So far, their direct trading in-

volvement as floor members has been limited, a slightly sore point in certain quarters, but they can operate through other traders. The volume they could inject into the market is considerable, and must be seen in the context of gold futures and financial futures.

Looking further ahead, the commission houses are not the only new forces in the markets. The number of commodity firms in London is multiplying, although they may be connected with existing traders or brokers—as happened for instance with the International Petroleum Exchange. And one cannot ignore the possibility that the type of firm allowed to operate in the market will also change. Stockbrokers in the United States have moved into commodities: will their British counterparts do the same? Are hybrids of commodity firms and financial institutions on the increase?

Writing self-regulation's obituary is certainly premature. Yet it would be complacent to believe that the tide which has carried the state and regulation into so many parts that other forces have not reached will be stemmed at the gates of the commodity markets. All it may require is a change of government and of political climate. The 1974 Labour administration was concerned about the commodity markets. A conjuncture of market and political changes could spell the end of self-regulation faster than we think.

Michael Prest
Commodities Correspondent

ears that Budget rejection is wrong

Illips & Drew in its latest publication states that although the Budget projection for 1981-82 is more optimistic than the previous year, it still appears unduly optimistic.

S. J. Lewis and Mr C. G. only suggest that unemployment will be higher than treasury expects with consequences for prospective living on social security. In addition, public sector increases may also be a while, while nationalized industries face more severe pressures than assumed by the Government.

By note that with the rising apparent reluctance to issue fixed interest, preferring short and undated issues, and linked securities, the long tendency of long is reduced. However, institutional holdings are probably at very low levels at present may not be sufficient to give strength for a surprise in the market.

They consider that the trend will be resumed in summer even if there is a term setback in the next weeks.

It will end this month on balance, reflecting a fall for stock from the 10 sector after the lapse of a month of the Bank of England's request to the banks to add to their holding of a final maturity of one year.

Mr. Carr's view of retail was updated in his view of post-Budget and says Sir Geoffrey Howe's have hit the consumer more than previously feared. The possible result that will be a 2 to 3 per cent retail sales volumes.

are to index-link allowances could bring in steeper decline. For the best outcome likely 1.82 will be a 5 per cent increase and a 15 per cent improvement in food.

Brokers' views

The team says that Fine Art Developments recovery next year, after its rationalization, could fall short of expectations because of borrowing and the spending background.

Mothercare has also had its troubles this year as the recession's effects were deepened by the high rate trends and the consumer trading downturn. European profits have been hurt by sterling's strength, and the American subsidiary has also been hit by the recession.

A. W. H. Smith the book distribution leases and the diversification into DIY still cause some concern, while Capel-Cure Myers suggest that MFI could benefit from increased contact between management and the City to help restore full confidence.

They are recording a selling Hepworth shares on the fundamentals of trading, as they are heavily dependent on asset value and bid talk, while Currys are also vulnerable. Two others have looked at Hanson Trust's results were published in December. Since then the shares have outperformed the All-Share Index by 30 per cent, but Mr Hector Sains at Phillips & Drew thinks the prospects for 1981-82 are bright, particularly considering newly acquired McDonough, which could take profits to £58m. This year industrial trading activities in the United Kingdom are more than £42m, compared with £39m last time.

Carr's forecast for Hanson is for £44m and Mr Roy Owens is also recommending purchases as the United Kingdom businesses have shown themselves to be defensive in the past, while North American activities appear to be performing well at present.

Rosemary Unsworth

Brown Boveri slumps to £1.1m

Brown Boveri Kent, the industrial instruments group, saw profits plunge from £5.7m to £1.1m last year and the dividend has been passed.

Turnover increased during the second half, producing a £3m increase to £89.4m, but margins were eroded by the strength of international competition. Redundancy costs and factory relocations amounted to £900,000.

Mr J. Luptons, the chairman of the group which is 54 per cent owned by the Swiss-based Brown Boveri organization, said that there was an absence of any firm indications of improving trends for the United Kingdom economy.

Bank Base Rates

N Bank	12%
Clays	12%
CI	12%
Consolidated Credits	12%
Hoare & Co	12%
Lyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Westminster	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

day deposit on sums of 10,000 to 99,999 9% over 30,000 10%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
18 Lovat Lane London EC8R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Last Price	Chg. week	Gross Divid.	Yld %	P/E
63 Airsprung Group	72	+2	4.7	6.5	11.4
65 Armitage & Rhodes	50	—	1.4	2.8	20.6
70 Bardon Hill	191	+1	9.7	5.1	7.2
39 Deborah Services	98	—	5.5	5.6	4.9
37 Frank Horsell	105	—	6.4	6.1	3.3
23 Frederick Parker	50	—	1.7	3.4	21.7
48 George Blair	68	-2	3.1	4.6	—
50 Jackson Group	106	-1	6.9	6.5	4.0
86 James Burrough	118	—	7.9	6.7	9.7
64 Robert Jenkins	320	—	31.3	9.8	—
20 Scruttons "A"	52	+1	5.3	10.2	3.8
15 Torday Limited	209	-3	15.1	7.2	3.6
04 Twialock Ord	111	+1	—	—	—
66 Twialock 15% ULS	72	—	15.0	20.8	—
66 Unilock Holdings	45	-1	3.0	6.6	6.9
79 Walter Alexander	101	+1	5.7	5.6	5.6
51 W. S. Yeates	255	-5	13.1	5.1	4.8

If the national standard of living of the British people is not to decline steadily and permanently, we have to make substantial changes?

THE DEPTH AND SEVERITY OF THE RECESSION

and the action GKN has taken to mitigate its effects

Statement by Trevor Holdsworth, Chairman of Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd, from the 1980 Annual Report and Accounts.

Group profits before tax of £126 million in 1979 turned into a loss of £1 million in 1980 whilst attributable earnings, after extraordinary items, in 1979 of £56 million became a loss of £90 million in 1980.

The dramatic decline in profitability in 1980 is a clear demonstration both of the depth and severity of the recession and of the action we have taken to mitigate its effects.

Recessionary conditions applied internationally in most developed countries but these were most intensely adverse in the United Kingdom.

Not only were economic factors generally adverse but no business sector has been more severely affected than steel and mechanical engineering serving, and largely dependent upon, the automotive and construction markets, both of very great importance to GKN.

The United Kingdom, our largest investment area and where economic policies have turned the world recession into an unprecedented national depression, showed the most significant change. For the year as a whole, the United Kingdom companies operated at a trading loss of £18 million even before finance charges, with the profits of the first half being eliminated by a loss of £40 million in the second half. No major part of the United Kingdom activities has escaped the effects.

Moreover, 1980 started with a most prolonged and damaging strike in the nationalised British Steel Corporation which dragged in most of the private sector of the industry; the reasons for that strike and any gains achieved must now surely seem irrelevant to those who created the situation. The cost to GKN was great not only in the specific steel-making areas but also in the general disruption caused throughout the steel-using and steel distribution activities.

THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

However, by far the most important market place and the one most affected by recession has been the automotive industry. Demand for passenger cars, for tractors and for construction equipment has in every case been at a low ebb in Europe and North America. The principal manufacturers in the USA together have incurred losses exceeding £2,000 million; two major international groups, both important customers for GKN, have had to be sustained by concerted action by bankers and in other cases governments have given direct support. Against this background, the results of our United Kingdom companies are perhaps not so difficult to understand.

Direct exports from the United Kingdom of £193 million (1979 £216 million) were commendably maintained for most of the year, falling off only in the final months: the high value of sterling made these exports much less profitable than hitherto.

Our inescapable reaction to the situation is clearly indicated by the costs charged:

Firstly, in arriving at the profit before tax, £26 million for redundancies in continuing activities. Secondly, under extraordinary items, £49 million for discontinued activities including again a further £22 million for redundancies.

Thus, a total of £75 million has been absorbed in 1980 almost entirely in respect of the United Kingdom; £48 million of this has been for redundancy payments and other employee-related costs. There has been a reduction in our United Kingdom work-force of 12,400 in the year of which 11,000 were redundancies; in addition, provision has been made for further redundancies of some 5,000 employees who were either under notice at the end of the year or affected by closures announced since the end of the year.

Whilst these costs are a definitive indication of the action taken further cost has been incurred in the inevitable disruption that such severe change brings with it; for much of the year there has been substantial short-time working which applied to as high a number as 25,000 in the second half of the year.

Outside the United Kingdom, the results of our companies have been much more satisfactory with the overall surplus on trading at £55 million equalling that of 1979; in reality they did much better than this comparison indicates, because the higher value of sterling throughout 1980 has reduced their apparent contribution to the consolidated results by the equivalent of £8 million. In particular, our European operations sustained their profitability despite their dependence on the automotive industry.

OUR STRATEGY

Although the economic conditions have demanded a greater need for urgency in implementation, the general thrust of our programme for strategic change and development remains:

- to concentrate upon the manufacture of technologically oriented products of high added value;
- to direct our thrust to world rather than national markets both by direct exports and by overseas investment;
- to increase substantially the Group's involvement in the services sector both in wholesale and industrial distribution and in a variety of problem-solving services to industry, commerce, construction and the community at large.

During 1980, we have successfully commissioned the first of our plants in North Carolina, USA for the production of constant velocity joints for front-wheel drive cars and the second facility will also shortly commence deliveries. Demand for these products remains as planned.

We have continued the development of our automotive accessories and replacement parts distribution networks in the USA and in Europe and also augmented the Industrial Services sector by our investment in industrial and commercial waste disposal in the United Kingdom.

Finally, we have recently announced the formation of a joint company with the British Steel Corporation, Allied Steel and Wire Limited, to combine our respective general steel re-rolling and associated interests.

The new venture puts together two of the most modern rod mills in Europe (at Cardiff and Scunthorpe) with the new electric arc mini-steelworks at Tremorfa, Cardiff, and also includes downstream acti-

vities in certain bar and section mills, wire drawing, nail manufacture and reinforcement engineering.

This new combination of public and private enterprise (achieved with the active encouragement of the Department of Industry) will strengthen an important part of the United Kingdom steel industry and should be seen as consistent with the steel re-structuring policies of the European Coal and Steel Community.

In view of the harsh consequences that 1980 has brought both to the financial performance of the Group, unmatched since the 1930s, and, more pertinently, to so many of our employees in the United Kingdom, there is understandably much comment and criticism of the Government's policies which have caused the United Kingdom to be more severely affected than other industrially developed countries.

However, we must not forget that the central economic problem of the United Kingdom has, for a long time, been our disastrously low national productivity. A depreciating currency, borrowing to finance national revenue deficits and reduced profitability of industry have enabled the nation to pay itself more than it has earned and to avoid facing this central issue. High inflation has resulted.

No previous policies—and many have been tried—have succeeded in reversing this long-term deterioration. If our national standard of living is not to decline steadily and permanently, then we have to make substantial changes. The continual deferment of these necessary changes has meant that they are now happening with extreme and painful speed during a period of general recession.

Alternative policies proposed by alternative political parties and others are either, at the best, unconvincing or, at the worst, unthinkable.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

The private sector of manufacturing industry has, in particular, taken action and achieved substantial change.

However, the same degree of adjustment has not yet taken place in much of the public sector.

We are still faced with absorbing without choice many increased charges for goods and services—and the United Kingdom has nearly half its economy in the public sector—from providers complacently continuing to deal with their employees as if maintaining their standard of living or their jobs was an unquestionable right.

To effect change in these cases is the clear responsibility of Government and so far they have not succeeded.

As to the present and immediate future, there are some signs in the United Kingdom that the rapid decline in markets and the destocking may be slowing down although the recent national Budget may yet give another twist to the spiral in certain market areas. Some weakness is also now developing in other European countries.

I do not expect 1981 will see any general upward trend in our markets. Beyond that, I am hopeful that the very stringent, rapid and costly action we have had to take will provide the basis for a better financial performance.



GUEST KEEN AND NETTLEFOLDS LTD

If you would like a copy of the 1980 Annual Report and Accounts please write to:
Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Limited, GPR Dept., GKN House, 22 Kingsway, London WC2B 6LG Tel: 01-242 1616 Telex: 24811

Owners resistance begins to pay

	Latest price	Prev price
Ally & Wilson 7 1/2 Dec 83-84	67 1/2	67 1/2
Ally & Wilson Mids 97, Ln 83-84	68 1/2	67 1/2
All-Hew 6 1/2 Dec 87	58	54 1/2
Do 7 1/2 Dec 87-88	57 1/2	58 1/2
Do 8 1/2 Dec 87-88	57 1/2	58 1/2
Ally Hedges 8 1/2 Ln 87-2000	58 1/2	58 1/2
Average Linc 7 7/8-83 1/2	11 1/2	21 1/2
Do 8 1/2 Dec 88-1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Do 9 1/2 Dec 88-1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Do 10 1/2 Dec 88-1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
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Interest stocks

specialist, the price of oil would have to rise to \$65.89 per barrel in five years for investors to earn an annual return of 16 per cent under the indexing formula.

in the United States on April 26.

Even on Friday when Chases Manhattan and Manufacturers Hanover, two of the nation's largest banks, announced increases in the prime rate from 17 to 17½ per cent, dealers dismissed this as no more than a sideways move.

1 week for investors because

† Traded & Unquoted.

[illegible]

STRAIGHT DEBT		Price		YTM	CONVERTIBLE BONDS	
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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 10; Dealings End, April 30. § Contango-Day, May 1. Settlement Day, May 11

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 10; Dealings End, April 30. \$ Contango Day, May 1. Settlement Day, May 12.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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PERSONAL CHOICE



da Day George and Mel Ferrer in a new three part series 'The Return of Captain Nemo' (BBC 1 7.20).

The recently completed Warsaw Pact manoeuvres once again left the spectre of the Red Army to our television screens with comments on the might and efficiency of the tank fighting machine. World in Action's COMRADES AT SEAS (ITV 8.00 pm) examines the Russian claims that they have equipped armed forces in the world. In the programme, Red Army servicemen talk about Soviet fighting equipment, the men who operate it. Some surprising facts emerge. The T-72, for example, has an engine that was originally designed for a 1930s aircraft and when it changes gear a heavy hammer is used to push it into position. The recently built version has an anti-aircraft gun which is more likely to incapacitate the enemy rather than load the shell. Alcoholism, drug-taking, racial discrimination together with inadequate training and inferior equipment smashes the myth, spread by the Soviets and some of our spokesmen, that they are an invincible fighting force.

A Panorama's UGANDA — DEADLINE FOR DISASTER (BBC 10 pm) Jeremy Paxman examines the recent history of Uganda, a country on what will happen in the country when the Amin regime's Tanzanian forces leave in June. Since 1979 there have been three rulers — Lule, Binaisa and the present democratically elected ruler Milton Obote. None of these men have been able to end the famine and starvation, the farming industry has been set back and inflation is rampant. Law and order is not well established, the poor-to-leave Tanzanian forces being only people capable of keeping the country's fragile facade of unity. With their going what can be done to avoid another dry? Jeremy Paxman might have the answer.

RESOLUTION ON SATURN — THE MOONS (BBC 2 9.30 pm) is the series' second programme about the mysterious planet and its moons — in particular the largest of the 15 moons, Titan. The NASA Voyager space craft journey has revealed that the sphere contains hydrogen cyanide, the chemical scientists are was the starting point for life on earth. Because of the cold it is unlikely that there is any form of life on the methane moon but when the sun expands in about five million years the Earth will be destroyed, Titan will be frozen and there is a possibility that life will begin there as it did on Earth.

THE LAND OF HONOURABLE DEATH (Radio 3 10.15 pm) is the last of two readings, on consecutive nights, from the last of the journals of Lord Byron. They have been compiled by John Murrell and they cover the period shortly before his death as he was on the islands of Cephalonia and Messolonghi. In extracts, Byron, through the voice of Ian Holm, dabbles in sex, gives family news and comments on politics.

AT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (c) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1
6.40 am Open University: Genetics; 7.05 Neurophysiology; 7.30 Frequency Analysis. Closedown at 7.55.
9.35 Roobarb. Another adventure narrated by Richard Briers (c). 9.40 Jackanory. The first of a ten-part adaptation of Tolstoy's *The War and Peace*. (c). 9.55 The Banana Split. Children's entertainment (c). 10.25 Lasse (c). 10.50 Play Chess with Jeremy James and Bill Harrison (c). Closedown at 11.00.
12.45 pm Pebble Mill at One. The history and present plight of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is examined. 1.45 Hands and Tails (c). Closedown at 2.00.
3.15 Songs of Praise from The Barnard Children's Village, Barnard, Essex (c). 3.55 Play School. 4.20 Chuggers Plays Pop. Live music plus games. 4.40 The All-New Popeye Show. 5.00 John Craven's Newsround. 5.05 ITV Peter Jones in Staffordshire to see the maintenance work carried out on the world's largest Corkscrew Dipper. We also hear the story of a six-foot model of HMS Pandora which ran aground when bringing home the Bounty mutineers. 5.35 Fred Basset. Bone of Contention (c).
5.40 News with Richard Baker. 5.55 Nationwide. Region news including Hugh Scully's Watch dog.
6.55 Ask the Family. The Wilkinsons of Dunnington challenge the Tysons from St Albans in a quiz chaired by Robert Robinson.
7.20 The Return of Captain Nemo. The first of a three-part adventure serial based on Jules Verne's underwater hero.
8.10 Panorama. Uganda — Deadline for Disaster. Jeremy Paxton reports from post-Amin Uganda. (See Personal Choice).
9.00 News read by Peter Woods. 9.35 Film: A Fistful of Dollars (1964) starring Clint Eastwood.

BBC 2
6.40 am Open University: Hogarth's Paintings 7.05 The Fall and Rise of the Small Baker. 7.30 Drawings of Seurat. Closedown at 7.55.
11.00 Play School. Chole Ashcroft's Elbow Grease is the story and the presenters are Lesley Nightingale and Fred Harris. 11.25 International Snooker. Live coverage of the Embassy World Professional Snooker Championships being played at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (further visits at 6.55, 9.30 and 11.30).
4.50 pm Open University: Classical Greece: Games and Festivals. 6.15 Stereochemistry of Addition Reactions. 6.40 Maths: Completeness. 6.05 M101/8 Inequalities. 6.30 Engineering Statistics.

Thames
9.30 am Who's Afraid of Opera? Joan Sutherland with the help of some pundits introduces the young and old to La Traviata. 9.55 The Nomads.
10.20 Film: The Love Boat (1976). Four stories featuring couples who fall in love on a cruise ship. 11.55 Betty Boop Cartoon (c). 12.00 We'll Tell You a Story. Christopher Lillicrap with a story and illustrations by the very young. 12.10 pm Rainbow. Educational puppets. 12.30 Vet. The last programme in the series takes us behind the scenes for a typical day in the life of a vet.
1.00 News read by Peter Robinson. 1.20 Thames News with Robin Houston.
1.30 Crown Court. A titled lady is accused of stealing and disposing of allegedly scandalous photographs. 2.00 The Riddlers.
2.30 Film: Easter Parade (1949) starring Judy Garland and Fred Astaire. A legendary musical which depicts the famous duo as a couple of swells.
4.15 Five Magic Minutes with Ali Bonzo. 4.20 Graham's Ark. Graham Thomson with all you want to know about dogs as pets. 4.45 Ad Lib. Non-stop entertainment for young people.
5.15 Money-Ground takes a look at the question of data privacy and follows up a report that new cars are being equipped for such a long time that when they reach the road they are already rusted.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Nature Watch. Julian Pettifer talks to Harry Haju who has the responsibility of trying to keep the coal and uranium rich state of Wyoming a wildlife preserve. 7.30 Coronation Street.
8.00 World in Action Special: Comrades At Arms. A look at the state of the Red Army (see Personal Choice).
9.00 The Sweeney. An ex-convict and a friend of Jack Regan wins the Pools and is then killed. His friend investigates (c).
10.00 News.
10.30 Film: The Wrath of God (1972) starring Robert Mitchum and Rita Hayworth. A disparate trio are forced to act as agents for a leader of a revolution in a Central American republic when he tells them he has enough evidence on their past to have them executed.
12.30 am No Vain Sacrifice. Leonard Parkin with the first of seven programmes tracing the history of martyrdom.

ITV
6.40 am News. 7.00 News. 7.30 News. 8.00 News. 8.30 News. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 10.00 News. 10.30 News. 11.00 News. 11.30 News. 12.00 News. 12.30 News. 1.00 News. 1.30 News. 2.00 News. 2.30 News. 3.00 News. 3.30 News. 4.00 News. 4.30 News. 5.00 News. 5.30 News. 6.00 News. 6.30 News. 7.00 News. 7.30 News. 8.00 News. 8.30 News. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 10.00 News. 10.30 News. 11.00 News. 11.30 News. 12.00 News. 12.30 News. 1.00 News. 1.30 News. 2.00 News. 2.30 News. 3.00 News. 3.30 News. 4.00 News. 4.30 News. 5.00 News. 5.30 News. 6.00 News. 6.30 News. 7.00 News. 7.30 News. 8.00 News. 8.30 News. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 10.00 News. 10.30 News. 11.00 News. 11.30 News. 12.00 News. 12.30 News. 1.00 News. 1.30 News. 2.00 News. 2.30 News. 3.00 News. 3.30 News. 4.00 News. 4.30 News. 5.00 News. 5.30 News. 6.00 News. 6.30 News. 7.00 News. 7.30 News. 8.00 News. 8.30 News. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 10.00 News. 10.30 News. 11.00 News. 11.30 News. 12.00 News. 12.30 News. 1.00 News. 1.30 News. 2.00 News. 2.30 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